McDonald's sponsors hole-in-one, donates to SCC. PAGE 2
Police probe burglary at ex-chief prosecutor's house. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

BEA CABRERA

From left, Matt DeLeon Guerrero of Hive Analytics and Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. officers and members Perry Inos Jr, Alex Sablan, Gloria Cavanagh, Josephine Mesta, and Viola Alepuyo at the general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resources Management held yesterday at Charley's Restaurant of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

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Scramble on for prevailing wage survey

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

» Chamber hires Analytics, DataTalks

The CNMI economy it seems is always running in a race for resources and time.

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. is currently taking the initiative to jumpstart the 2019 prevailing wage survey after working for the U.S. Workforce Act of 2018's enactment last year.

A local prevailing wage survey is needed to set the salaries of applicants under CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program, which was extended another 10 years by the U.S. Workforce Act.

And the clock is ticking as application for the CW program opens next month.

To this end, NMBAC president Alex Sablan announced that the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has contracted Hive Analytics and DataTalks to conduct the CNMI prevailing wage survey.

"Data companies were contracted by SCC… but they are absolutely and only working with the U.S. and CNMI Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, and the Central Statistics Division…We need to get this done as quickly as possible," Sablan said during yesterday's Society for Human Resource Management meeting at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

"We cannot wait for government procurements or process of hiring in-

See SCRAMBLE on Page 4

Inaugural flight of Skymark tomorrow

» Torres, Skymark president to welcome arrival of 1st charter flight

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres will lead CNMI officials in welcoming the historic inaugural flight tomorrow, Friday, of Skymark Airlines Inc., which will launch daily direct charter flights from Tokyo to Saipan until Wednesday, March 27.

Concepcion

"The CNMI will be Skymark's first international destination so this is a huge deal for them and us," Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher Attao Concepcion told *Saipan Tri-*

See SKYMARK on Page 4

Ancient human remains found in San Antonio

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety recovered ancient human remains in the village of San Antonio last Monday.

On Monday, DPS received a call regarding remains uncovered in San Antonio Village, specifically Hakmang Avenue.

Proper procedure was followed, photographs of the scene were taken, and the evidence was then sent to Historic Preservation Office archeologist Luk Simmonds who later determined that the bones discovered were of ancient human remains.

According to a press release from DPS, police detectives responded to the call at around 12:18pm regarding the remains in San Antonio.

See ANCIENT on Page 4

Visitor arrivals still recovering

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota posted incremental recovery in February 2019 following Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the destination in October 2018.

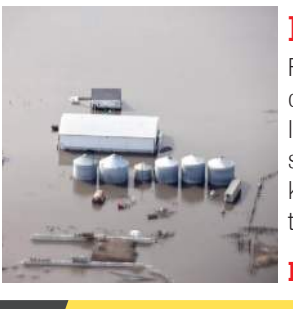
Bouncing back from an 88-percent drop in arrivals in November 2019, February 2019 arrivals reached 38,049, 28-percent lower than last February's mark.

"Recovery from Yutu contin-

See VISITOR on Page 4

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Disney has closed its $71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment business, putting "Cinderella," "The Simpsons," "Star Wars" and "Spider-Man" under one corporate roof.
PAGE 13



NATION
Farmer Jeff Jorgenson looks out over 750 acres of cropland submerged beneath the swollen Missouri River, and he knows he probably won't plant this year.
PAGE 16

ASIA
The leafy New Zealand city where a self-proclaimed racist fatally shot 50 people at mosques during Friday prayers is known for its picturesque meandering river and English heritage.
PAGE 17

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Local

McDonald's sponsors hole-in-one, donates to SCC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Saipan yesterday sponsored a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming annual golf tournament of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The local fastfood franchisee turned over $1,000 yesterday at their Beach Road branch to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 2019 Golf Tournament, which raises funds for their annual operations.

SCC noted that McDonald's Saipan is also sponsoring a hole-in-one prize for hole No. 13 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort on Saturday, March 30, 2019.

According to owner Marcia Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan has always supported the golf tournament.

"We are happy to donate this," she said. "I urge the community to come out and join the tournament. It's going to be fun."

McDonald's marketing manager Ana Olaes noted that the fastfood chain supports what SCC plans to use the money for.

McDonald's Saipan owner Marcia Ayuyu pose with Saipan Chamber of Commerce board vice chair Joe Guerrero as she presents the check donation yesterday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

"McDonalds Saipan is very much into family values, anything that would help [locally]," she said. "Whether it's another company or a group, McDonald's is always there."

SCC board vice chair Joe Guerrero received the McDonald's donation on behalf of the Chamber. "Without the support of companies such as McDonald's Saipan, we will not be able to fulfill our mission to help businesses grow and succeed in the CNMI," he said.

The proceeds of the tournament, according to Guerrero, help fund the SCC operations and programs such as college scholarships, training initiatives for new businesses owners, and improving the SCC's network in the community.

CNMI Bar Association names new officials

The CNMI Bar Association announced this week the appointment of Peonie Cabrera as its new executive director.

The association office is temporarily located at Bldg. 1364 at the Military/Veterans Affairs Office on Anatahan Drive on Capital Hill. Contact number is (670) 789-4529. Hours of operation are from 8:30am to 12:30pm, Monday through Friday.

The bar association's newly elected board, as well as the representatives and committee chairs, are: Rene Holmes, president; Catherine Cachero, vice president; Charity Hodson, secretary; Hessel Yntema IV, treasurer; Charles Brasington, Jane Mack, Phillip Tydingco, board members; Doug Hartig, ABA representative; Vincent Seman, 9th Circuit representative; Bruce Mailman, Law Revision Commission representative; Robert Torres, MLSC representative; Steve Pixley, Disciplinary Committee chair; Krissta Kirschenheiter, Committee on Bar Programs chair; Michael White, Bench-Bar Committee chair; Brasington, Continuing Legal Education Committee chair; and Committee on Judiciary and Government chair. ***(PR)***

MATH WHIZZES
Mount Carmel School's Math-Court Knights have their picture taken after a recent meet.

MCS

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Police probe burglary at ex-chief prosecutor's house

Police are investigating the burglary at the house of former chief prosecutor Michele Harris in Papago.

As of press time last night, Department of Public Safety spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan had yet to release details about the case.

DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau chief Jeffrey Olopai said that, as of yesterday, investigators were still gathering information about the incident.

Harris has been off-island since March 11 and just came back on Saipan Tuesday night, a source said.

Harris reported the burglary Tuesday past 9pm. There is no information yet as to what items were stolen.

Last January, Attorney General Edward Manibusan announced the appointment of Harris as consumer counsel of the Office of the Attorney General.

Harris was hired as chief prosecutor of the OAG in January 2017. Heather Barcinas is now the acting chief prosecutor. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Rotary Club gets over 30 volunteers

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 30 volunteers will be participating in the upcoming Las Vegas Night fundraiser of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Rotary Club president Greg Borja said last Tuesday that the club is expecting over 30 volunteers to participate in their signature fundraising event on March 30, 2019.

Borja noted that over 20 volunteers will be coming in from Tinian, while Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is reportedly donating at least 10 dealers to support the games in the fundraiser.

"They would be there to make sure the chips are being managed correctly during the evening," Borja said, adding that the company is also looking at sending over additional manpower to help with the event.

"IPI has been instrumental in…terms of how we are setting up the event and getting additional skilled volunteers," he said.

The additional manpower plus some Rotarianas who have volunteered to deal during the event add up to a sizable amount of manpower for a one-night event. However, they still need more.

"We are always up for volunteers because some people may need a break during the evening for a chance to get up and stretch their legs, instead of just sitting down for five to six hours straight," he said, adding that those who are interested in volunteering may email rotarysaipan@gmail.com for more information.

The Las Vegas Night is the Rotary Club of Saipan's largest annual fundraiser that features gambling. There would be blackjack, Texas hold'em poker, baccarat, craps, roulette, and bingo.

New attractions for the event include a corporate-sponsored Texas hold'em poker tournament and a 3-card poker.

Las Vegas Night is slated for Saturday, March 30, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall and Azucena Hall from 6pm to 12am. The event features a 2019 Mitsubishi Mirage G4 or $10,000 as its grand prize; second prize of $3,000, third prize of $2,000, fourth prize of $1,000, and fifth prize of $500. There are also door prizes.

Tickets may be bought from any member of the Saipan Rotary Club, at Megabyte Saipan, at the McDonald's Saipan headquarters in Dandan, and at the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

WWII vets to tour CNMI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

To reflect on the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Saipan and Tinian during World War II, veterans from all over the U.S. have organized a tour of the battle sites on Saipan and Tinian.

According to Pacific Development Inc., veterans of the Battle of Saipan, Battle of Tinian, and the Normandy Invasion will arrive throughout this week and will be divided into six groups.

"We have received confirmation that World War II veterans from the Battle of Saipan/Tinian and from the Normandy Invasion are all scheduled to arrive from March 25 to 28," according to a PDI statement.

The first of the six groups will be arriving from March 18 to 21 from Valor Tours led by Professor Anderson Giles, Ambrose Group A led by Chris Anderson, Ambrose Group B led by Ron Drez, and from the National WWII Museum.

"Local guides and historian have been contacted and are set to lead the tours on both islands," the statement added.

The tour was made possible by the partnership between the Best Defense Foundation and the Military Historical Tours.

According to PDI managing director Gordon Marciano, the tour is actually an extended tour for the veterans—an extension of the yearly Iwo Jima tour and memorial ceremony.

"As most of our vets from the era are passing on, the government of Japan sees the importance and continues to commemorate the anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima with families of Japan and U.S. vets. The Tour of Iwo Jima is organized by Military Historical Tour, together in partnership with the government of Japan," he said.

Marciano adds that multiple government agencies have been working to ensure that the World War II spots on Saipan are ready for the veterans but, because the island is still recovering from Super Typhoon Yutu, there will be spots that are still not ready.

"Families and historians, along with our World War II vets, are all set and are ready to see the sites. Some locations are still closed due to recent typhoon. However, group tour conductors understand the island's recovery but are excited and are looking forward to reaching our shores soon. Our utmost appreciation to Saipan and Tinian Marianas Visitors Authority, Parks and Recreation, Historical Preservation Office, Saipan Mayor's Office, and Tinian Mayor's Office for ensuring the sites requested for is ready for the site tours," he said.

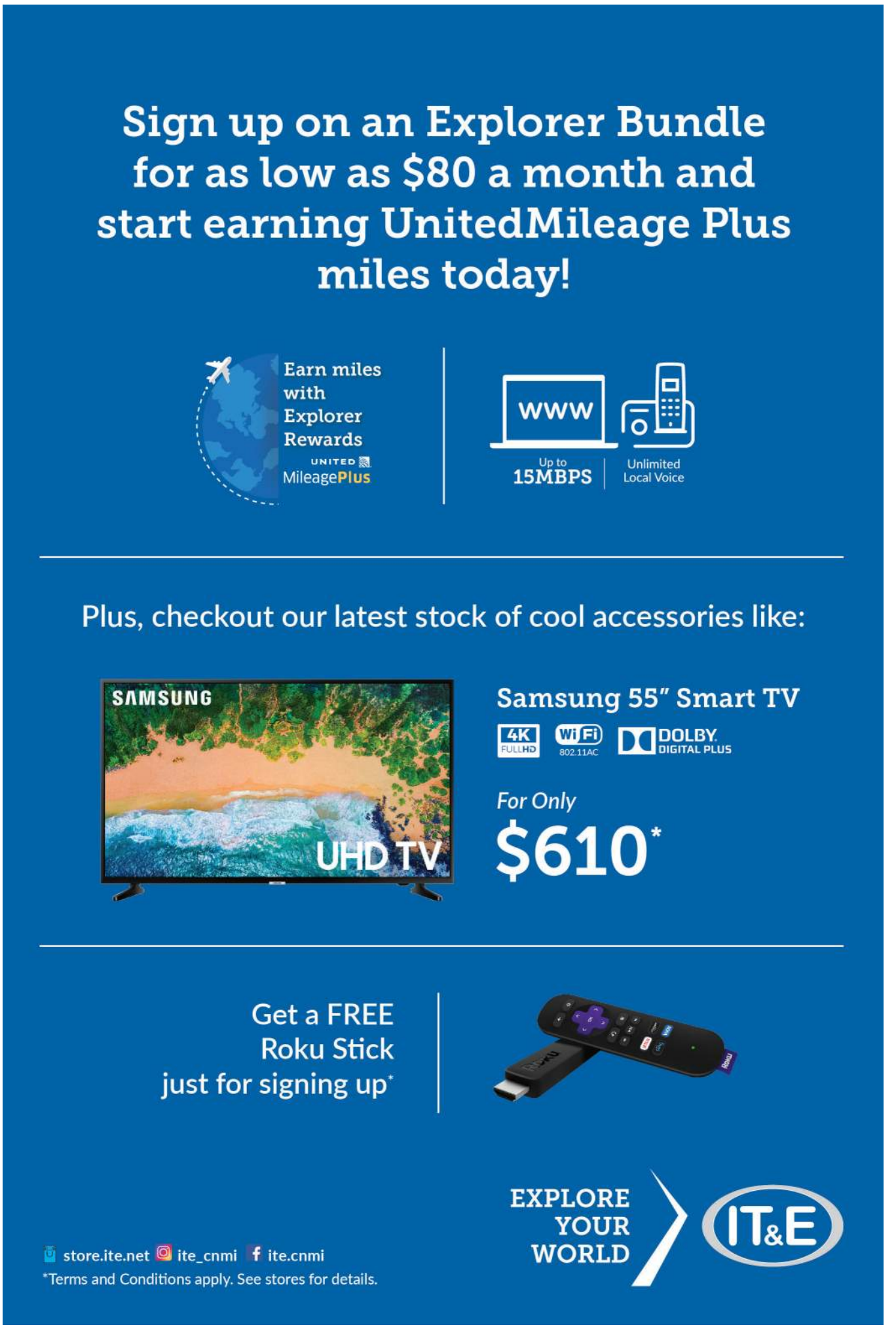
High risk for rip currents until Friday

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, a large trade-wind swell is keeping the risk high for rip currents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The high risk of rip currents is through Friday afternoon.

Surf of 7 to 9 feet will maintain a high risk of rip currents along east facing reefs the next several days. Surf is expected to decrease toward the end of the week.

The public is being advised that, if you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Swim parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. ***(PR)***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SKYMARK

From Page 1

bune yesterday.

Skymark is the first Japanese carrier to operate flights to Saipan since Japan Airlines withdrew from the CNMI market in 2005.

Torres, Skymark president and representative director Masahiko Ichie, and Concepcion will hold a press conference at the Skymark check-in counter at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport shortly after the arrival of the first flight at 3:30pm.

Members of the Legislature, MVA, and the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors will also be present at the press conference.

MVA staff, three cultural performers, 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera, and MVA's Marianas-chan Jebro John Leon will greet the passengers of the inaugural flight. Leon is MVA's mini ambassador to Japan.

Concepcion said they are very excited with the launching of charter flights from Tokyo.

"It's been a while since we've seen direct flight service from Japan so the entire tourism industry is thrilled with Skymark's entry into the market," Concepcion said.

Securing direct air service from Japan by Skymark was the biggest MVA projects that outgoing MVA managing director Concepcion had successfully completed.

Concepcion said through his relations with airline industry professional in Japan they were able to meet the Skymark team and work closely with them as they planned these flights months ago.

"We see nothing but long-term success for all of us. We welcome Skymark to the CNMI family," he said.

Concepcion earlier disclosed that it was through his personal relations with airline industry executives in Japan, and direct negotiations with Skymark executives, that the CNMI was finally able to convince Japan's third largest carrier to launch flights to the CNMI.

Skymark, will also launch additional flights in April and May for Japanese Golden Week.

Skymark is expected to launch their regular scheduled flights in July.

MVA expects a slight increase in arrivals from Japan after these initial flights commence.

When daily flights launch in July, MVA believes there will be a significant increase in arrivals from Japan.

Skymark donated 3 million in Japanese yen or about $30,000 to MVA for the CNMI's recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

The CNMI government and Skymark had signed a co-promotional agreement that would re-open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

Skymark is the first low-cost carrier in Japan. It is also the only carrier that offers domestic flights based at Haneda International Airport in Ota, Tokyo.

E-WASTE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Electronic waste in Lower Base are now ready for shipment off-island after the Department of Public Works' Solid Waste Management Division was approved to get rid of e-waste in the amount of 200 tons.

VISITOR

From Page 1

ues at a steady pace, but we were also strongly affected in February by the lack of direct flight service from Japan and fewer flights from Korea compared to February 2019," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are looking forward to more improvements in late March, when Skymark Airlines will operate six charter flights from Japan and T'way Airlines will complete the resumption of flights from Korea since Yutu."

Although Japan posted a 79-percent drop in February to 983 visitors, compared to January 2018 when daily flights operated from Tokyo-Narita International Airport, prospects for the market are bright with the commencement of direct flights from Tokyo with six charter flights on March 22-27, 2019, by Skymark. Package sales by travel agencies JTB, H.I.S. and KNT are sold out for the initial flights, and four additional charters are being planned for Japan's Golden Week holiday period on April 27-30. March arrivals will also see a boost from participants in Saipan Marathon 2019 and an 80-member incentive tour group. The airline is also slated to start regular daily flights in summer 2019, marking a much-anticipated turnaround for the once-dominant market.

Arrivals from China reached 19,567 in February 2019, 17-percent lower than the previous year, largely due to a weak domestic economic environment and residual negative impact from Super Typhoon Yutu. Weak purchasing power delayed people's decisions to travel, and the typhoon has left lingering concerns about local infrastructure, including the facilities at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. Facing the coming off-season, the charter companies and travel agencies are promoting special rates and packages, with more focus on customized MICE groups. The MVA is also enhancing its promotions in China, with Xi'an Silk Road International Exhibition in March, road shows at Qingdao and Jinan in April, and promotions with Tuniu X Chow Tai Fook to attract wedding and honeymoon tourists.

"The China market represents a very significant portion of all visitor arrivals to The Marianas," said Concepcion. "At this critical time, it is more important than ever for the MVA to ensure that The Marianas is aggressively promoted and marketed in China and our other major markets. There are hundreds of other beach destinations in the region, and we are making strategic use of our reduced funding to convince travelers to choose The Marianas. More visitors mean more revenue for government and businesses, alike. We really cannot afford to jeopardize that."

Arrivals from Korea posted another month of double-digit recovery since Yutu, but were still 32-percent lower than February 2018 at 15,287. Last to resume flights since Yutu will be T'way Air, which is scheduled to resume five times weekly from March 31, increasing to daily flights on May 30. Asiana Airlines has also temporarily reduced it aircraft size with a corresponding reduction in seats from 250 to 177 per flight.

Source markets economic highlights

Overseas spending by South Koreans reached a new record high last year as international travel becomes an increasingly common way to take holidays. The average USD/WON exchange rate in February was 1122.30 won, a slight increase from the previous rate of 1120.44 won in January.

In January 2019, the nationwide consumer price index in China increased by 1.7 percent compared to the previous year. It has been more difficult to recruit tourists to visit Saipan during winter vacation and the Spring Festival compared to previous years. Normally, flights would be full one month prior to the departure date. In 2019, the flight sold out only 10 days prior to the departure date, and there were several flights with occupancy of less than 80 percent. The main factors for the slow sales are poor domestic environment and Yutu Typhoon in the last year.

Japan's consumer price inflation inched lower to 0.2 percent year-on-year in January 2019 from 0.3 percent in the previous month and in line with market expectations. It was the lowest inflation rate since October 2017. Japan National Tourism Organization reported that the number of Japanese overseas travelers was up 2.0 percent year on year, reaching 1,452,200 in January 2019. ***(MVA)***

SCRAMBLE

From Page 1

dividuals to make this survey possible. We must make this now in order for you and all of us to have as much time of the 160 days provided for renewal with [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services] and in meeting future requirements. If one of these regulations are dropped, hopefully soon, we have sufficient time from U.S. DOL through processing in the USCIS before the expiration on Sept. 30, 2019," he said.

The urgency to come up with the CNMI prevailing wage was echoed by NMBAC officer Viola Alepuyo.

"[The] prevailing survey is driven by [CNMI] Commerce but since they do not have the resources and manpower, SCC said that it will step up to the plate and provide assistance because if we don't, our businesses will be in jeopardy."

"SCC has the biggest scope and breadth in understanding of the business community," she added.

Sablan emphasized that the pitfall of not having a CNMI prevailing wage before CW renewals and applications is that employers will go after the Guam prevailing wage. "If the CNMI [prevailing] wage [survey] comes later in time, it is our belief that the current process is once you get the wage determination in your application is that your stuck with that number even on resubmittal.

"There is no way of going back to [the] CNMI prevailing wage and utilizing a new number that is less than what was determined. You are going to get caught with a higher impact of a Guam prevailing wage that is not sustainable in this current market of the economy…eventually, it will hurt foreign and U.S. workers alike," he added

"The prevailing wage is now required under the CW program and so if you want to bring CW-1 worker you will have to pay for that prevailing wage for that occupation. The application is on April and so we are on a crunch in order to ensure that the wages that employers are submitting is representative of the actual value and current economic conditions of the CNMI for the particular sector," Hive Analytic president Matt Deleon Guerrero said.

"I will be working with Will Maui of DataTalks who performed the last two prevailing wages for the Department of Commerce [and we] are going to be working together to try and figure out a way that we can take the lessons learned, the model used from the last three prevailing wages—2011, 2014, and 2016. We plan to develop a hybrid approach that allows for the absolute simplicity in filling out the prevailing wages so that we can get the data quicker," he added.

Deleon Guerrero said that the key things in this process are data collection and the methodology that will be used to meet the validity requirements of the U.S. Department of Labor.

"What we have done is try to implement a system that's going to be online as we are going to reach out to around 3,400 businesses that currently have business licenses on Saipan…everything will be automated so we get results accurately and quicker," he said

"Next is to get approval from USDOL of the methodology that we are going to use so we can collect the information. Once we get approval from USDOL then we can start implementing the survey," he added

According to Deleon Guerrero, the timeline for the 2019 Prevailing Wage Survey has four phases. "Phase 1 is contract initiation and survey development starting March 28, phase 2 is the first submission of wages on May 6, phase 3 is the second submission of wages on June 7, and phase 4 is the project completion by June 30," he said.

"We are going to work heavily with USDOL and Department of Commerce to make sure that the validity of the survey is responsive and ensure data privacy within employer or company's information. All the information will be accounted for, tabulated and checked within the locked doors of the Central Statistics Division," he added.

Sablan said by law the CNMI prevailing wage is required to be renewed every calendar year. "Every January 1st, the CNMI must come up with a new prevailing wage. As soon as we are done with this one, the CNMI government will have to conduct another survey for Jan. 1, 2020… if we don't, the overall economy will be affected—jobs will get slashed because people are not going to absorb the impact of the cost.

"We are down 30 percent already because we don't have the tourist numbers and we're still reeling from [Super Typhoon Yutu]. Hyper-inflation is real and we are looking at the overall impact of the economy here and we should always bear in mind that Guam's living wage and our economy are different," he added.

ANCIENT

From Page 1

Upon arrival at the scene, the detectives met with the witness who discovered what appeared to be human remains.

Upon further observation detectives noticed that the bones were attached to roots of a fallen tree along Hakmang Avenue.

Crime scene technicians along with HPO specialists arrived shortly after and assessed the remains.

The remains were later sent out to Simmonds for testing and was determined to be ancient human remains.

DPS wants to remind the public to refrain from handling, marking, or moving any remains, surrounding soil, or foreign debris around an area where human remains are discovered and to report any discovery of human remains to 911 immediately.

CHCC gets new wheelchairs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. got two brand new wheelchairs yesterday from a medical supplier on-island as a donation to the lone hospital in the CNMI.

Medquest Medical Supply gave the Commonwealth Health Center medical ward two wheelchairs—size 18s and size 22s—after CHC director of medical affairs John Tudela reached out to them.

"One of the problems usually is having patients transferred [within the hospital] to different departments for testing… One of the issues is we do not have enough wheelchairs," he said.

According to Tudela, the ward only has four wheelchairs. Ideally, the ward should have 10.

"This is one of the things that we always had problems with in transferring patients," he said.

Medquest manager Ellen Dionisio told *Saipan Tribune* that they did not have any second thoughts about making the donation.

"Medquest Medical Supply [made the donation] because we believe in the value of social good through charity," she said.

According to Dionisio, both wheelchairs cost them about $1,300.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña noted that Medquest has been a longtime partner of the hospital.

"[They] have helped us with patients discharged from the hospital to their home," she said. "We look at our system [of] working together with all the providers, and this donation just adds up to our partnership."

ERWIN ENCINARES

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña and CHCC director of medical affairs John Tudela pose with the wheelchairs donated by Medquest Medical Supplies yesterday.

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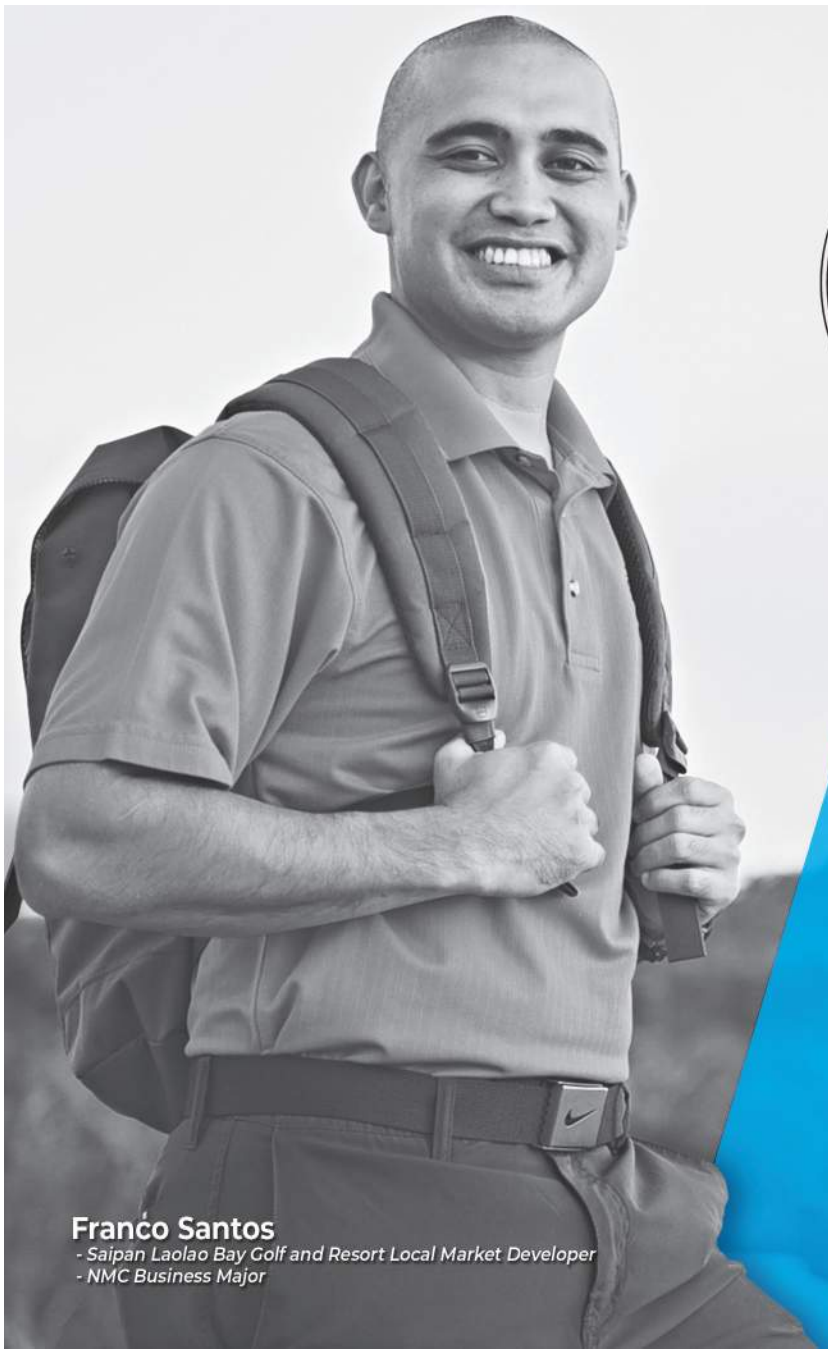

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Bidder's lawsuit vs DPL over quarry permit junked

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho dismissed Tuesday a bidder's lawsuit against the Department of Public Lands over an exclusive quarry permit on a public land in As Matuis.

Camacho ruled that because plaintiff Fanter Corp. Ltd. failed to show that DPL acted arbitrarily and capriciously in its handling of USA Fanter's submission for request for proposals, the company has not established that DPL violated a statute that provides constitutional standing to sue.

The RFP sought to "issue a quarry permit to the most responsive firm capable of providing DPL the highest return from limestone quarry operations on public lands."

Because USA Fanter did not show that DPL violated the statute, the company did not demonstrate that it suffered an injury, Camacho said, and did not establish that it has constitutional standing to challenge DPL's decision to revoke the RFP in lieu of negotiating with USA Fanter.

Camacho said the U.S. and CNMI supreme courts have ruled that the Legislature cannot erase constitutional standing, meaning the Legislature can give a right to sue but the person suing must still establish constitutional standing.

DPL issued the RFP in 2016. USA Fanter was the third highest bidder. DPL, however, did not enter into a contract with two highest bidders as they failed to agree on terms.

DPL then decided that, "given the significant amount of time that had passed since the RFP was issued, and considering the terms of the remaining proposals, it would not in the best interest of DPL…to award the contract to any of the remaining bidders," including USA Fanter.

DPL then issued a second RFP in September 2017 without first negotiating with USA Fanter, or any other remaining bidders.

On Oct. 1, 2017, USA Fanter sent a letter to DPL, protesting the cancellation of the first RFP. USA Fanter then submitted a proposal in response to the second RFP.

DPL has not yet finished evaluating the proposals it received in response to the second RFP. Currently, no party has an exclusive quarry permit under either the two RFPs.

On Oct. 25, 2017, USA Fanter filed a lawsuit against DPL to stop awarding the permit to another company and for the court to direct DPL to award the quarry permit to it.

USA Fanter also sought a court judgment directing DPL to enter into negotiations for a contract for the exclusive quarry permit.

USA Fanter requested the court to prevent DPL from awarding the exclusive quarry permit for the land until such time that DPL and Fanter have determined they cannot come to terms for a contract.

DPL, through counsel assistant attorney general Matthew J. Pugh, then moved for the dismissal of the lawsuit. Pugh argued that USA Fanter lacks standing to sue to challenge a non-award of a government contract and that DPL does not have the legal capacity to be sued.

USA Fanter, through counsel Robert T. Torres, argued that USA Fanter has statutory standing and that DPL has the capacity to sue and be sued.

The motion was heard on Feb. 6, 2018.

In his order granting DPL's motion to dismiss, Camacho said because USA Fanter lacks standing to challenge DPL's actions, the court need not reach the question of whether DPL can be sued by the company.

Camacho said that none of its arguments made a prima facie showing that DPL acted arbitrarily and capriciously.

Camacho said DPL did not ignore plaintiff"s protest of its bid denial. Instead, the judge noted, DPL considered the remaining proposals after the second highest bidder ended negotiations but decided against continuing the negotiations under the first RFP.

He said DPL decided against continuing the negotiations because it found that both the terms of the remaining bids and the amount of time that had passed since the initial request for bids made continuing negotiations under the first RFP not to be in the best interests of the people of the Northern Marianas descent.

Camacho said DPL's decision to cancel the first RFP after about one year of its issuance and issue the second RFP to try to obtain better bids was not an "unreasonable action."

Camacho ruled that the DPL secretary has the discretionary authority to cancel the first RFP.

ELECTION FEVER
Marco Taisakan Peter, wearing *mwar*, of the CNMI Republican Party, poses with Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, seated, lawyer Viola Alepuyo, and other supporters for the March 23 special election.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Candidate Donald Cabrera Barcinas of the Democratic Party joins some supporters in a group photo.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Independent candidate David Castro Sablan waves at motorists along Beach Road.
FERDIE DE LA TORRE

LTA prepares more CNMI health professionals

From left to right, Medical Billing and Coding specialist valedictorian Maritoni Raganot, certified nursing assistant cohort 5 valedictorian Gina Tanya Duenas, CNA instructor Johnny Aldan, LTA executive director Arielle Buyum, CNA cohort 6 valedictorian Ma. Victoria Camama, and GMTC president Fe Valencia-Ovalles.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Latte Training Academy, Inc. recently certified 42 CNMI residents in the allied health field.

Twenty students attained their certifications as certified nursing assistants, 12 students attained their phlebotomy technician certification and 10 students achieved their certified Medical Billing & Coding specialist designation.

The programs, which are accredited through the National Healthcareer Association and the American Medical Career Association, were funded as part of the CW Worker Fee Fund program and the CNMI's Workforce Investment Opportunity Agency.

All are U.S.-eligible workers intended to backfill the demand in the allied health field in the CNMI.

"The allied health programs are some of our more popular courses, primarily because there is a high demand for these positions within the CNMI. Many of the students who intend to enter into the medical and health field find that these courses provide them a good foundation and entry point into the field. … It [also] provides an equally good point as a career transition," said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum.

The programs, which recognize outstanding participants within the cohort, last anywhere between three and four months.

During the recognition ceremony, Maritoni Raganot, highlighted as the valedictorian of the Medical Billing & Coding specialist cohort, expressed her gratitude for the rigors of the program. "Thank you for holding each and everyone of us to the utmost standards of excellence to make sure that we reached our full potential. So here's to everyone who are graduating, here's to our remarkable instructors, and to the remarkable group of who made this happen," said Raganot during her speech.

The Latte Training Academy, Inc. has been offering the allied health program in partnership with the Guam Marianas Training Center in the past three years.

To date the organization has trained over 750 students with a certification rate of approximately 90 percent. Since its inception, the organization has leveraged partnerships with local and federal agencies to fund participation for its students.

In addition to the allied health program, the organization offers certifications in the areas of hotel & hospitality, business administration, information technology, and recently added its barbering & cosmetology program.

"As with all of our students, we are truly inspired by the level of commitment that these participants have shown. We believe that the ability to balance personal and employment obligations, with the added burden of attaining new skills to further advance their careers is a quality that any employer looks for. Many of our students have found themselves working within the field that they are certified in. This is in large part due to the effort that the Latte Training Academy makes to match in-demand occupations with the required training to provide employers with an adequate labor pool to choose from" said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez.

To learn more about the current program offerings, visit www.lattetrainingacademy.com. ***(PR)***

IN $283,000 DISPUTED BY BROTHERS

Subpoena served on man in Virginia is invalidated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Superior Court has quashed the subpoena served on a man in Manassas, Virginia that commanded him to come to Saipan to testify about his late father's estate assets.

In an order Tuesday, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho ruled that the subpoena is invalid because the administrator of the late Dr. Calistro C. Cabrera's estate caused a subpoena to be served on Donald Cabrera without providing the mandatory one-day $40 witness fee as required by the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

James Cabrera is the administrator of Dr. Cabrera's estate. Donald and James Cabrera are sons of Dr. Cabrera. The doctor passed away in November 2016, according to court records.

There is a dispute between the children of Dr. Cabrera concerning a $283,000 payment that the doctor allegedly made to Donald Cabrera before he passed away.

On April 7, 2018, administrator James Cabrera had his brother served with a subpoena in Virginia. The administrator never tendered his brother with the $40 attendance fee.

The administrator stated he would tender the fee if Donald Cabrera appears and testifies.

Donald Cabrera then moved to quash the subpoena, citing that the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure requires that the attendance fee be tendered simultaneously with the subpoena.

The motion was heard last Feb. 19. Rene Holmes appeared on behalf of the estate. Administrator James Cabrera was also present. Lawyer Michael Evangelista made a limited appearance on behalf of Donald Cabrera to contest whether the court has jurisdiction over his client.

In granting the motion to quash, Camacho said the administrator's argument that it will issue the witness fee if Donald Cabrera appears and testifies violates the plain language of the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

Camacho said the rules states that "service of a subpoena upon a person…shall be made by delivering a copy thereof of such person and, if the person's attendance is commanded, by tendering to that person the fees for one day's attendance," which is currently $40.

Camacho said the use of the phrase "shall be made," combined with the conjunctive effect of "and […] by tendering to that person," shows that the plain language of the rules requires a simultaneous tendering of the attendance fee and the subpoena.

Court drops charge vs 1 of 4 rape suspects

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has ordered the dismissal of the charge against Christopher Saimon, one of four men who allegedly raped a woman.

Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio absolved Saimon, 38, Tuesday of the sexual assault in the second-degree charge against him.

The court order stating the court's reasons for dismissing the charge has yet to be released.

During the hearing on Tuesday, Saimon's lawyer, Oliver Manglona, moved for the court to relieve him of his duties as counsel to Saimon and to relieve Saimon's mother of her duties as his third-party custodian.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Saimon allegedly raped a drunk woman back in 2018, along with his brothers, Romeo and Joseph Saimon, and his nephew Richmond Keybond.

In a report by police detective Wally Emul Jr., the alleged victim reported that she was drinking with Romeo Saimon, Christopher Saimon, and Keybond last June 24, 2018, because she had an argument with her former boyfriend, Joseph Saimon.

Emul said the victim reported that she was drunk and that the next thing she remembers was she was in the bedroom and Romeo Saimon was on top of her.

She said she passed out and later saw Keybond on top of her. She said she also saw Christopher Aquino on top of her and that she passed out. Romeo Saimon and Keybond allegedly sexually assaulted her twice.

She told police that she did not consent to have sex with the three suspects.

Emul said Christopher Saimon stated that he saw both Romeo Saimon and Keybond enter the room where the alleged victim was sleeping.

Christopher Saimon said he peeked into the room and saw Romeo Saimon on top of her and later also saw Keybond having sex with her.

Christopher Saimon said Keybond told him to have sex with her. Christopher Saimon admitted he too had sex with the complainant.

Christopher Saimon said Romeo Saimon and Keybond went back to the room and had sex with the complainant again.

Christopher Saimon said when Joseph Saimon returned to the house, he saw his girlfriend naked in the room and punched Keybond.

HS students compete in UOG chemistry contest

Twenty-four students from six high schools competed in the 2019 University of Guam High School Chemistry Titration Competition hosted by the Chemistry Program of UOG's College of Natural & Applied Sciences on March 12.

The competition, held since 2009 on UOG's Charter Day, is an annual outreach event that tests students' skill and knowledge in the field of chemistry. The students were asked to determine the percentage of acid in an unknown sample using an analytical technique called titration.

The participating schools were Father Duenas Memorial School, Academy of Our Lady of Guam, St. Paul Christian School, Harvest Christian Academy, St. John's School, and Okkodo High School.

The top three winners in each competition were awarded $775 worth of gift certificates, donated by UOG's Office of the Senior Vice President. Among sponsors for the event were EMB Electrical Inc., CTSI Logistics, and Modern International Inc.

The winners are as follows:

Team Competition

Clayton Brooks and Ron Coloma, Father Duenas Memorial School

Junya Kanemitsu and Jacob San Nicolas, Father Duenas Memorial School

Sandra Han and Angela Zhang, Harvest Christian Academy

Individual Competition

Clayton Brooks, Father Duenas Memorial School

Jacob Encio, Okkodo High School

Soomin Lee, St. John's School

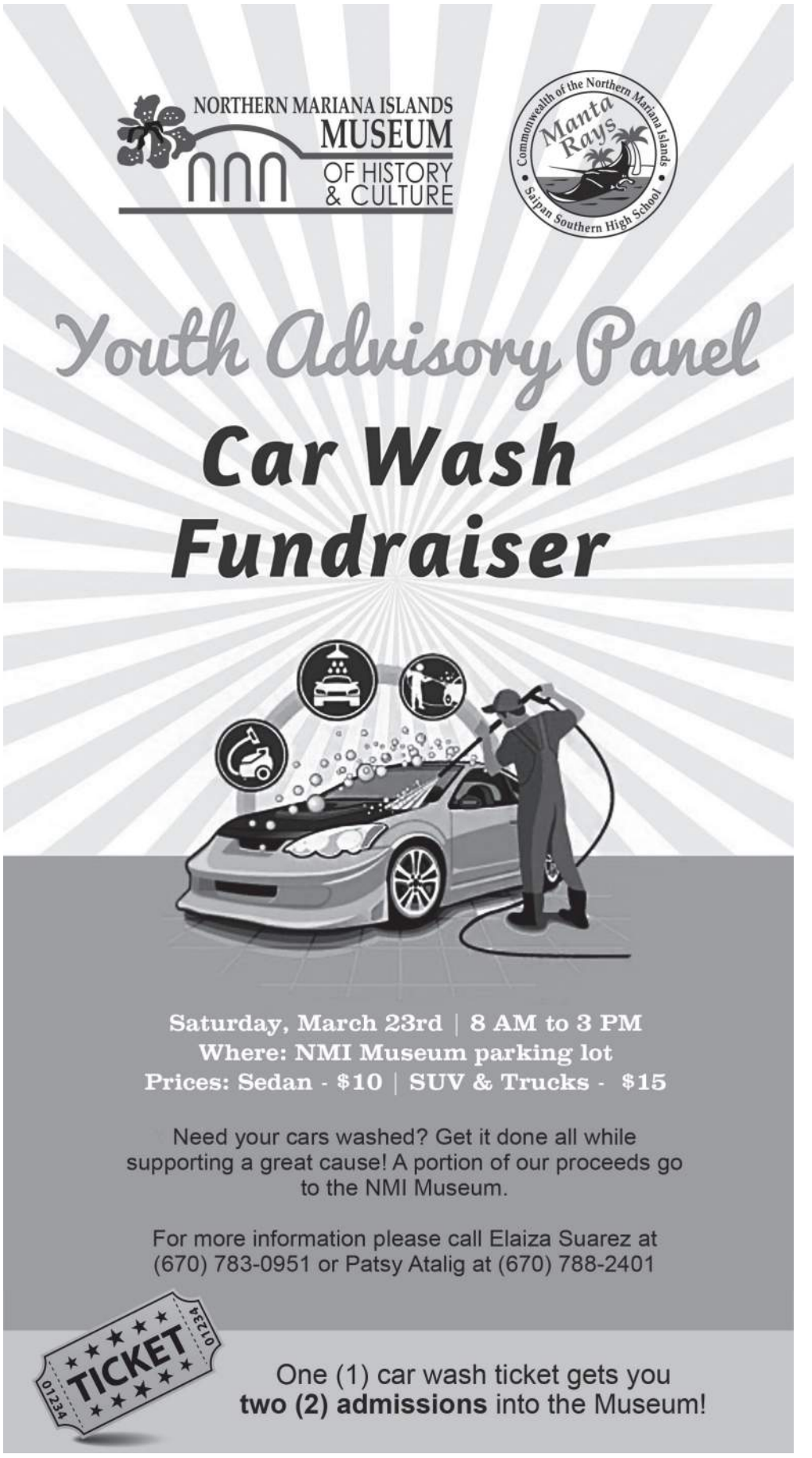
Lab Skills Competition

Maria Gloton, Academy of Our Lady of Guam

Michael Gumataotao, Okkodo High School

Jacob Encio, Okkodo High School ***(PR)***

From left, John Limtiaco, assistant professor, University of Guam; Soomin Lee, St. John's School; Angela Zhang and Sandra Han of Harvest Christian Academy; Maria Gloton of Academy of Our Lady of Guam; Clayton Brooks, Ron Coloma, and Jacob San Nicolas of Father Duenas Memorial School; Jacob Encio and Michael Gumataotao of Okkodo High School; Tedros Bezabeh, associate professor of chemistry, UOG; and Karla Wang, laboratory supervisor, UOG. Front, Junya Kanemitsu of Father Duenas Memorial School.
UNIVERSITY OF GUAM


NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & CULTURE
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Manta Rays
Saipan Southern High School
Youth Advisory Panel
Car Wash
Fundraiser
Saturday, March 23rd | 8 AM to 3 PM
Where: NMI Museum parking lot
Prices: Sedan - $10 | SUV & Trucks - $15
Need your cars washed? Get it done all while supporting a great cause! A portion of our proceeds go to the NMI Museum.
For more information please call Elaiza Suarez at (670) 783-0951 or Patsy Atalig at (670) 788-2401
TICKET
01234
One (1) car wash ticket gets you
two (2) admissions into the Museum!

Women make history in the Marianas

By EMMA PEREZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Something remarkable happened on March 1, 2019, the first day of Women's Month here on Saipan: For the first time in about 300 years, a woman of Chamorro descent started teaching another woman of Chamorro descent how to sail a canoe built from a traditional Chamorro design.

They sailed about 6.5 miles from the Guma Sakman in Susupe to the seaplane ramp in Lower Base.

As often happens when women do something so significant, this event slipped by us. When I realized what they had done, I had to share this story.

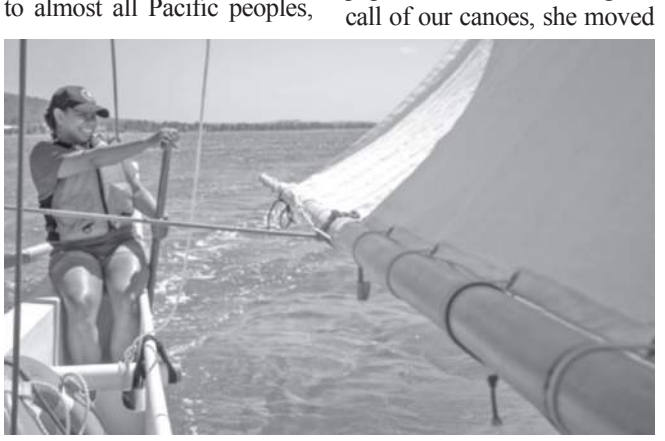
This could not have happened without the open hearts of Carolinian seafarers. In August 2018, Saipan's 500 Sails started its "Train the Trainers" program, thanks to the support of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council. This program is being taught by master navigator Cecilio Raiukiulipiy, nephew of grand master navigator Pius "Mau" Piailug. The generosity of these men, by sharing knowledge lost to almost all Pacific peoples, could save the maritime traditions here in the Marianas, both Chamorro and Carolinian. What is happening quietly as this program progresses is that women are eagerly stepping forward to learn to sail.

April and Sophia try their hand at tying aboard the vessel *Neni.*
DAVID BUTTERFIELD

Sophia teaches about wind aboard the vessel *Neni.*
DAVID BUTTERFIELD

Sophia Perez, of Chamorro and Western European descent, was one of the first pupils of Cecilio. Heeding the call of our canoes, she moved to Saipan from Brooklyn, New York in 2018. She has almost completed the course Cecilio has been formalizing and is part of the writing team, along with Art de Oro, finalizing the curriculum for future use in the Train the Trainers program. Sophia Perez was the teacher on the March 1 sail.

April Repeki, of Chamorro/Carolinian/Filipino descent, is already a cultural practitioner here on Saipan. She is the dance instructor for Marianas High School's Inafamaolek Cultural Club that performed at the 2019 Guam Chamorro Language Competition at the University of Guam, where they won first place in the Song and Dance category. She has been teaching dance on Saipan for over 10 years. Now she is expanding her cultural knowledge to include sailing. April was the student on the March 1 sail.



April steers with a poksai (paddle) aboard the vessel *Neni.*
DAVID BUTTERFIELD

Together, Perez and Repeki made history. They will continue to learn and teach others. 500 Sails programs take safety to heart; you will notice April wearing a lifejacket. We have several different swim classes available to adults and school age children. The next round of students for Train the Trainers is being chosen from our swim program, as will the third round. Join us. Swim. Build. Sail.

CONTACT INFO

- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/500SailsDolphinClubSaipan
- Email: info@500sails.org
- Phone: Emma Perez (670-285-4268) or Pete Perez (670-783-0890)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby set

The Saipan Fishermen's Association will hold the 15th Annual Mahi-mahi Fishing Derby on Mar. 30, 2019. Prizes will include $1,000 cash for first place, with remaining placement prizes to be announced. The registration fee is $100 per boat, including one captain and one angler, and $10 for each additional angler. For more information, contact Marianas Visitors Authority community projects specialist Ray Villagomez at 1 (670) 664-3200/01 or rvillagomez@mymarianas.com. ***(MVA)***

KHS Senior Parents' Night

KHS announces the Annual Senior Parents' Night on March 21, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the KHS cafeteria. All seniors and their parents are expected to attend. The agenda will include:

- Graduation updates: What's the plan!
- What ifs...
- NMC presents
- Progress report distribution for seniors ***(PR)***

Free probate workshops on Rota

Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will present probate workshops No. 2 and No. 3 on Rota today, March 21, 2019 starting at 1:30pm at the Sinapalo Youth Center. The sessions are free and open to the public. ***(PR)***

Weightlifting competition on Saipan

CNMI Weightlifting will hold a weightlifting competition on Saipan on May 18, 2019, at a time and place to be announced later. ***(PR)***

Class of 1981 reunion meeting

Attention to all Marianas High School Class of 1981 and off-island graduate(s) in Guam and the U.S. mainland that there will be a 1981 class reunion meeting today, March 21, 2019, starting at 6pm at the Tech-NIC Computer above Sherwin Paint across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

Military trainings at FDM, former golf course

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines, and U.S. Air Force is conducting trainings at the island of Farallon de Medinilla until March 23, from 8am to 10pm

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 is also conducting combat search-and-rescue training until March 21, from 5pm to 11pm, at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course in Barrigada

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories. It is also recommended the public, commercial pilots, fishermen and marine tour operators stay clear from these areas during the dates and times indicated.

These types of trainings are designed to enhance the readiness of military personnel. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during training at the former Adm. Nimitz Golf Course. ***(PR)***

Ladies' Night at the library

In honor of Women's Month, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library invites all women and their families to a free Ladies' Night tomorrow, March 22, 2019, from 5pm to 7pm.

There will be many fun activities provided, such as a Zumba class, a smoothie bar, raffle prizes for women, art demonstrations, and more.

The Ladies' Night is designed to celebrate women and all they do for the community and families, as well as provide a place where women can relax, enjoy activities, and socialize. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 21, 2000

House to lobby for resumption of PAL flight

House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial will lead a three-man delegation to Manila this week to hold talks with the owner of Philippine Airlines for possible resumption of its direct flights to Saipan. Rep. Rosiky Camacho, chair of the Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee, and Rep. Malua T. Peter will join him in the meeting with business tycoon Lucio Tan scheduled this weekend. PAL, the Philippines' flag carrier, used to provide flights between Manila and Saipan, but the service was stopped several years ago due to shrinking passenger haul.

Gun control proposal heads to Senate

Alarmed by the recent shooting of a six-year-old girl at a Michigan school by her classmate, local lawmakers have passed a measure seeking stiffer penalties on adults who provide children easy access to guns. Under the proposal of Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho, the misdemeanor offense will carry up to $1,000 in fine and 30-day jail sentence if they allowed a minor to use or possess a firearm without adult supervision. For failure to secure a firearm out of reach from minors, the penalties will be $500 fine and a three-day imprisonment, according to House Bill 12-84. Called the Minor Children Firearms Control Act of 2000, the legislation is a response to the Michigan shooting which killed Kayla Rolland who was shot to death by her classmate while in school. The bill now heads to the Senate for action.

March 21, 2005

New election regulations adopted

Voters can expect to see changes in the electoral procedure during the November general elections, with the Commonwealth Election Commission adopting amendments to its regulations. The new policy stops the use of ink stain as proof of voting and introduces a new design for the ballot. Under previous regulations, polling place supervisors were required to cross off the name of each voter on the list after the voter has received a ballot. In addition, each voter was required to have his or her right index finger marked with indelible ink to show that he or she has already voted.

CUC posts $6.4M net loss

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. posted a net loss of $6.4 million in the first four months of fiscal year 2005, as a $5.6-million increase in production fuel costs offset the $2.1 million that CUC had managed to cut from its administrative expenses. An unaudited financial statement issued by CUC showed that the utility firm generated total operating revenues of $23.8 million from October 2004 to January 2005, a 1-percent decrease from the $24.1 million total revenues collected in the same period last year. CUC attributed the decline primarily to billing adjustments and to a lesser extent, decrease in usage of existing customers.

March 21, 2006

Poker bill now waiting for Fitial's signature

A House bill that would require poker operators to pay annual fees upfront is now sitting on the desk of Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. This came after the Senate passed House Bill 15-18 in a Rota session Friday. The governor has 45 days to act on the bill, which had been passed unanimously by the House of Representatives. If enacted, the bill would be known as the Poker Machine License Fees Act of 2006. It would address problems with current practices in poker fee collection, which reportedly cause the government to lose approximately more than $7 million in poker revenues annually. Currently, poker fees are collected quarterly. According to the Legislature, quarterly payment makes enforcement more difficult and it encourages false reporting, nonpayment of fees, and the operation of illegal machines.

Submerged lands case hits dead end

The U.S. Supreme Court yesterday junked the CNMI government's petition to review and reverse a ruling of an appellate court, which affirmed the federal government's ownership of some 264,000-square miles of submerged lands in the Northern Marianas. This development fully exhausts the CNMI's judicial remedy in its claim over the submerged lands. The High Court decision did not come as a surprise, though, as CNMI's assistant attorney general James Livingstone earlier said that the high tribunal rarely grants such petitions. The CNMI has commenced extra-judicial relief even before the High Court junked the petition through negotiations with the federal government.

Man arrested on two counts of 'ice' trafficking

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested on two counts of trafficking of a controlled substance and waived his right to a preliminary hearing.

Mark Anthony S. Benavente, 38, through his lawyer, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, waived Tuesday his right to a preliminary hearing on two charges of trafficking the controlled substance methamphetamine or 'ice'.

A preliminary hearing is a proceeding after a criminal complaint has been filed by the prosecutor to determine whether there is enough evidence to require a trial.

Benavente was arrested following two sting operations by the Drug Enforcement Task Force.

According to the declaration of probable cause, the charges against Benavente are backed by recorded phone conversations and identification by a cooperating source.

The declaration of probable cause states that on Jan. 11, 2018, and Jan. 18, 2018, Benavente was caught, through the task force's cooperating source, distributing "ice" In Chalan Kanoa.

On Jan. 11, 2018, at about 11:35am, task force officers monitored a phone conversation between the cooperating source and Benavente.

In that conversation, Benavente and the cooperating source agreed to meet at the Shany Laundry and Poker in Chalan Kanoa to make the transaction.

Although Benavente was hesitant on the phone to sell "ice" to the cooperating source, Benavente still went through with the transaction.

Task force officers later showed the cooperating source a picture of Benavente and the source confirmed that the man in the picture was the man he met at the Shany Laundry and Poker.

Task force officers tested the crystalline substance procured from the cooperating source for methamphetamine and the results turned up positive.

The second "buy-walk" operation was on Jan. 18, 2018, at the Shany Laundry and Poker at around 2:19pm.

In May 2015, Benavente was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to burglarizing and stealing money and an iPad from the Pena House Boutique in Chalan Kanoa.

MVA, DCCA tie up to jumpstart Marianas tourism

The Marianas Visitors Authority and Department of Community and Cultural Affairs are teaming up to help reboot tourism in the Marianas.

The 38th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival on April 11-14, 2019, on Saipan will feature the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival, bringing celebrity performers from Korea, Japan, and China in a media event aimed at highlighting the islands' recovery from Super Typhoon Yutu, enduring natural beauty, and various attractions.

"The MVA is extremely excited and grateful to partner with the DCCA Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture to make this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival a special event featuring some top performing artists from our major source markets," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Thanks to [our] agreement [with] DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter and Arts Council executive director Parker Yobei, we expect the elevate the exposure of the Marianas, and especially the Flame Tree Arts Festival, to new heights through a one-night concert featuring these guest performers.

"The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival will help spread the word that the Marianas warmly welcomes visitors for a truly unique cross-cultural experience in paradise," he added.

The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's longest-running arts and culture festival and will feature live performances, artwork and crafts, food sales, and more. From traditional to contemporary, various art forms will demonstrated and celebrated, including performing arts, visual arts, handicrafts, culinary arts, and more.

In addition to a large main stage, his year's festival will also feature a second, acoustic stage with more performances.

The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival concert will feature four artists on April 13, 2019, from 5pm to 9pm at the festival grounds at Civic Center, Saipan. Dancer Kenichi Ebina of Japan won Season 8 of *America's Got Talent*. From South Korea, boy band Ulala Session rose to fame after winning the 2011 television talent show *Superstar K 3*, and singer Hu Gak won *Superstar K 2*. Singer Yixin Wang of China will also perform.

Visitors to the festival may use the T Galleria courtesy shuttle bus and disembark at Saipan World Resort, immediately adjacent to the festival grounds. The shuttle stops at T Galleria in Garapan, as well as major hotels.

The MVA is also arranging for media from South Korea, China, and Japan to cover the concert, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, and other attractions during the week.

"The #MyMarianas Paradise Festival will be a great opportunity to show the world that the Marianas is open for visitors, still beautiful, and still a great place to visit," said Concepcion. "Best of all, the concert will be absolutely free for visitors and residents alike. We realize that some businesses are still struggling as the economy recovers, but we encourage everyone who can to please help support the Arts Council with a monetary donation this year—large or small—to help make this event a success and help reboot our destination."

Additional sponsors include Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands and Hard Rock Café Saipan. Flame Tree Arts Festival sponsors this year are Bridge Capital, T Galleria by DFS, Bank of Guam, IT&E, MARPAC, 4ever CNMI, and Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarians.com. ***(PR)***

Japanese performance artist Kenichi Ebina, winner of the 8th season of *America's Got Talent*, will perform at the #MyMarianas Paradise Festival on Apr. 13, 2019. Other performers will be boy band Ulala Session and singer Hu Gak of South Korea, and singer Yixin Wang of China.

MVA

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Hearing Room.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY**
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda
   d. Adoption of Minutes
      1. February 26, 2019 – Regular Meeting
      2. March 1, 2019 – Special Meeting

II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**[1]

III. **REPORTS**
   a. Chair's Report
   b. Executive Director's Report

IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**[2]

VII. **MISCELLANEOUS/ ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

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Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Isa Villa Multifamily Housing Development Complex

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed expansion of 86 additional housing units of the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project. The Isa Villas project is a multifamily development complex consisting a total of six concrete buildings with three and four-bedroom units, 150 regular parking spaces plus 6 ADA-compliant parking spaces, communal/recreational space, a community center, and driveways. The project site is located on Capitol Hill, Saipan, on a privately leased property identified as Lot Number 150 E 30.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, April 04, 2019, at 5PM. Venue will be announced at a later date.**

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M, Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Isa Villas Multi-Family Development project.

/s/ Janice E. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev 1.

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-18-032 Rev.1 , Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than April 2, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 26, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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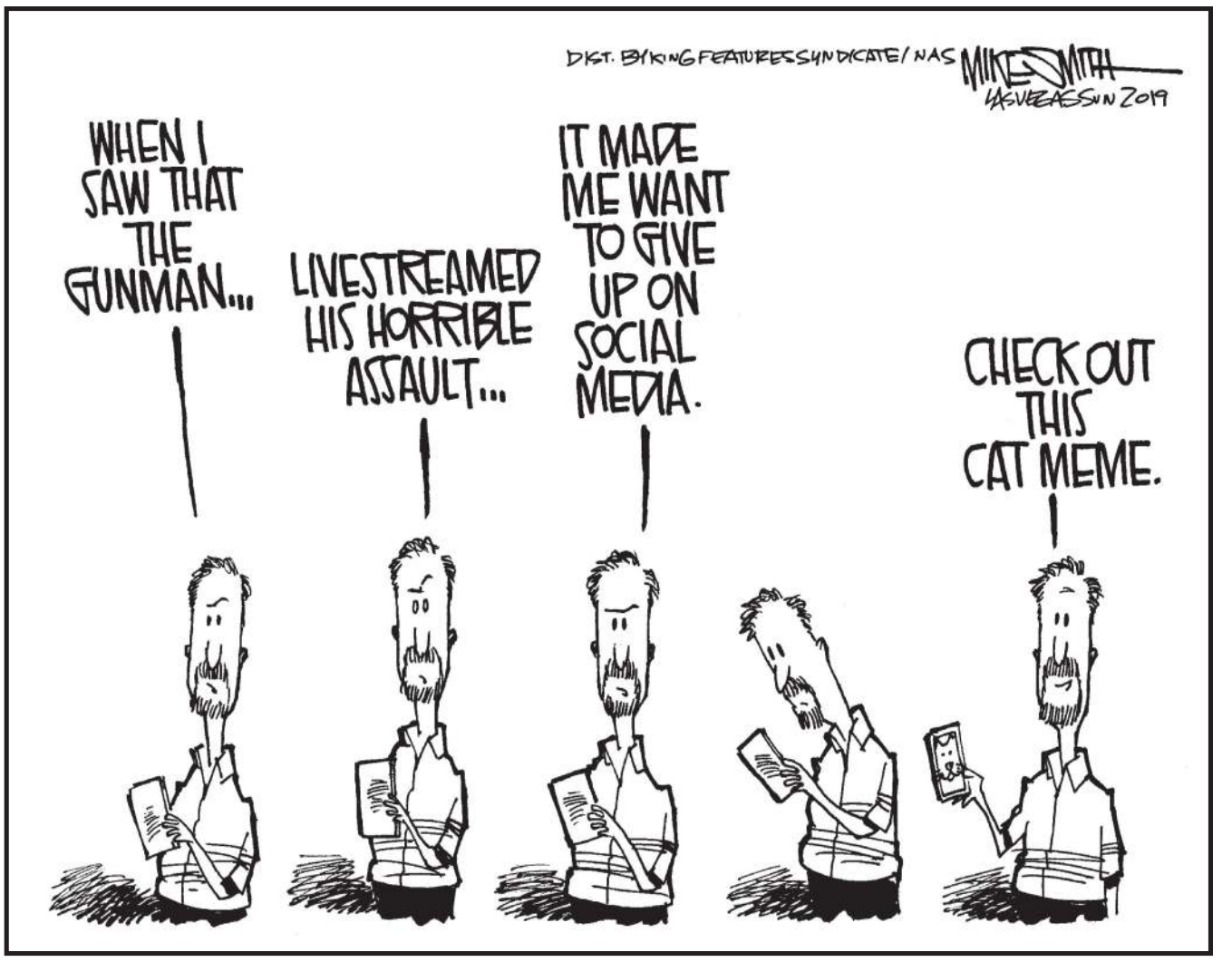

DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE / NAS
MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2019
WHEN I SAW THAT THE GUNMAN...
LIVESTREAMED HIS HORRIBLE ASSAULT...
IT MADE ME WANT TO GIVE UP ON SOCIAL MEDIA.
CHECK OUT THIS CAT MEME.

EDITORIAL

New Zealand response to massacre puts us to shame

Last week, a white nationalist terrorist armed with a semi-automatic rifle and a shotgun entered two mosques and massacred more than 50 Muslim worshipers during the the weekly Jummah prayer. As Americans, we are used to these kind of horrifying attacks. It was just a few months ago that a domestic terrorists murdered 11 Jewish worshipers at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. We were ready for the same old tired script: one politician after another condemning the attack and offering thoughts and prayers to the victims and families.

But something different happened. Instead of offering thoughts and prayers, New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern promised action—"I can tell you right now our gun laws will change." New Zealand has stricter gun laws than the US. For example, they require universal background checks but assault weapons are legal for purchase, as they are in the U.S. There, the majority of civilian owned firearms are not registered.

For many Americans who have been calling on lawmakers to enact gun control measures for decades, Ardern's quick response is inspiring. It is refreshing to see a leader shaken by a mass shooting and immediately work to prevent such horrific violence from happening again. But Ardern's response is the norm. It is the lack of response from American leaders that is the outlier.

In response to a 1996 mass shooting that left 35 people dead, Australia overhauled the country's gun laws. Six months after the massacre, Australia had an automatic and semi-automatic rifles bans in place, required a 28-day period for gun purchases, created a national firearm registry, and bought back and destroyed about 650,000 civilian owned firearms. The overhaul achieved its goals. According to the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, in the 18 years before the 1996 massacre, there were 13 mass shootings in Australia. In the 11 years after the massacre—and the gun control legislation—there were none. The rates of both firearm related homicides and suicide in the years following the legislation were basically half what they were before.

The Australia example is the most dramatic one, but it is not the only one. After a 1989 mass shooting in Montreal, Canada enacted stricter gun control measures. The United

See NEW ZEALAND on Next Page

Beto-mania a prime example of our cult-of-personality politics

By JONAH GOLDBERG
Tribune News Service

Jonah Goldberg is an editor-at-large of National Review Online *and a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. You can write to him in care of this newspaper or by email at JonahsColumn@aol.com.*

Robert "Beto" O'Rourke's biggest fans and supporters insist he is a forward-thinking, future-oriented visionary, but no contender for the Democratic nomination feels more familiar than the former three-term congressman from El Paso.

That's because he has the highest combined score in both deja vu and nostalgia, which are two different things. Deja vu is the unsettling sense that you are repeating a specific experience. Nostalgia is a kind of sentimentality, a homesickness for the past.

Of the other straight white men officially or presumably vying for the nomination, only Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and former Vice President Joe Biden can compete with O'Rourke on these fronts.

There's a lot of deja vu to the Sanders campaign, because it feels like it never really went away. When he announced for 2020, it was a here-we-go-again moment.

But Sanders' campaign isn't wrapped in nostalgia—even if Sanders himself is steeped in it, mostly for what he imagines Scandinavia was once like. What he represents is oddly new for such an old candidate. Sanders has been a thorn in the Democratic Party's side for decades. His success at pulling the party to the socialist left in just a few years is too politically fresh to be a nostalgic appeal.

How many people are old enough to even remember a previous era when "socialist" had a positive connotation among the hardcore Democratic base? Perhaps there are some fans of Henry Wallace, Eugene V. Debs or Norman Thomas still with us, but Bernie's core supporters think socialism is about the future, not the past.

Meanwhile, there's a lot of nostalgia to Biden, but not much deja vu, because he's never run for president when voters actually took him seriously.

Biden conjures memories of several bygone eras. For some, he's a reminder of the Obama years, when progressives were never more sure history was on their side. For others, he's an icon of the old days when patronizing old white men were still the face of big-government liberalism. Also, Biden is positioning himself as a kind of Grandpa Joe who gets along with everyone, the way we imagine politicians did in the good old days.

But in the combined category, O'Rourke wins the nostalgia-deja vu biathlon by a mile.

Everything about his candidacy feels like a triumph of nostalgia-peddling. The constant refrain that he's this generation's Robert F. Kennedy is an interesting play on the time-tested effort by Democratic candidates to claim the Kennedy mantle, thought usually it's John F. Kennedy, not RFK. Then again, it makes sense given that RFK moved left of JFK—and so has the Democratic Party.

There's also a shared authentic inauthenticity to O'Rourke. Joe Kennedy groomed his boys for the presidency from an early age. O'Rourke's dad assigned his son the nickname Beto almost from birth, because he thought it would help win votes in El Paso.

Like a 1960s Kennedy, O'Rourke is an old person's idea of what a young person is supposed to be like, albeit with a Gen X spin: skateboarding, membership in a punk band, etc. Sure, O'Rourke was born the same year that Joe Biden and Bernie Sanders first ran for the Senate, as a Democrat and social democrat, respectively. (Biden won.) But that only makes him young compared with those guys.

Then there's the deja vu. O'Rourke's candidacy feels like a rerun, and not merely because the media covered his recently concluded Senate race against Ted Cruz as if it were a presidential contest. (A race, it's worth nothing, that O'Rourke lost despite having raised more money than any Senate candidate ever, and despite the fact that his opponent was wildly unpopular).

No, the real queasy feeling I get from the O'Rourke candidacy is that this feels like the new normal: A charismatic candidate develops a cult of personality, then uses the party apparatus as a platform not for any ideas, but rather to promote a celebrity brand.

O'Rourke's not the only one doing it—that's the point—but he is the only one who has to. Because unlike his non-male, non-white opponents, he's got nothing else to fall back on.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Kutturan relihion

Selebrasion kuaresma i mas dignu yan respetau na kutturan relihion mañgatoliku guine siha na petlas. Deste man-famaguon hit i mañainata machoneg finana`guen espirituat deste dottrina gi finagpu` eskuela yan tinayuyot familia gi gima` antes de oran deskansu.

Mañeha hit ginen otdinariu na ha`anita para ta assiste selebrasion pasun i Sainata espesiatmenti gi Bietnes Santo. Gi tinayuyotta ta hassu fehman `nai masentensia i Sainata sin umisau, makastiga, mapunu` gi kilu`us, mahafot dispues lumala` ta`lu gi mina tres dias. Tai achaigua na sakrifisiu ginen i Satbadotta pot para una` fan libre hit.

Espirituat un` añkla ni umadelanta fitme yan sattun na sensian yine`ase`, ina`ayuda, respetu yan inagofli`e gi halum tautau-ta siha. Mauleg na finana`gue lokue` gi famaguon-ta `nai man-eyag benefisiosu na linala` espirituat para satbasion niha.

Hu hassu antes i oran `las tres gi Bietnes Santo (`nai matai i Sainata) na enteru i señgsuñg siha mansilensiu. Mañaunau i tautau gi likau dispues de `las tres estake mahafot i Sainata.

Guaha ora para tinayuyot (kulan bela) gi halum Guma` Yuus. Sige mona esta i Sabalon Loria yan Pasguan Resureksion (Dameñgu) `nai kahulu` i Saina gi lañget. Kutturan relihion natibu! Felis Pasgua Resureksion para todu! Si JR yan Familia.

Kuttura: Sige sineyu` proteksion kutturan natibu gi fina` kanta siha. Mauleg! Lau ni unu umesplika hafa mafafama na kuttura.

Hafa kutturan Chamoru? Mauleg ta pula` yan esplika este para benefisiun todu. Sin fitme na infotmasion puru dispues finu` apotsu` na kuttura ni madagau ginen i chagu`. Debi tana` klaru pot uttimu besis haf` kutturata.

Atan haf` modun linala` natibu deste antigu na tiempu yan kau sumaga kumu patte gi linala`ta asuntun gualu` yan pinegsai. Siña ha` ti man-hanau hit para i lanchu lau rikonose tatten guma`.

Mañaunau ham man-malulog gi gualu` antes mina` chettun giya hame haf` benefisiun mananum yan mamogsai. Sumen namagof na patte i para ta hale` tinanum suni `sino kamuti para usun lamasan sena. Piot ya guaha katdun manog fresku pat to`lañg para una` libianu mañgañgas yan pañut `aggun haya.

Huñgan, gualu` yan tasi dos primera lugat kuttura. Lau hafa i primera kutturan natibu? Kumu `in seda` natutuñgu`yu`!

Botlu: Un` kantot mamaisen haf` na gigon mangai salape` hit kontodu mañata matulaika? Kulan finaisen chagu gi hilu` inosenteria yan insuttu.

Insuttu este na kuestion para i kanaha pumupunu` siha gi moseria manmacho`chu` para mantension familian niha! Ti dibatde sa` mafachochu`e pagamientun niha!

Animu i natibu macho`chu` para mantensioña. Ti na`banidosu i para tafan o`nañga finacho`chu` otru. Namamahlau gi fuetsudu na lahen natibu este na modun linala`. Poresu na humanau man-espiha offisioña gi moseria.

Disposision tanu` familia seguruyu` na todu mana fan mañage gi suetten niha. I kutturan ina`ayuda ya monana kontodu `nai guaha suette. Maseha dididi` lau todu mana` fan mañage. Disposision man-agofli`e na familia!

Pues i kanta dididi` tagfena gi bandan botlu sin motibu. Kustumbren tanu` i para un` apase nesessidat-mu ginen un` fachuchu`e na pagamientomu.

**Nina`e:** Gi fina` gotpe, i kustumbren natibu i man-na`e ayudu gi familia ni gai chinatsaga. Este na nina`e ha kubre pinadesin fina` matai, fandañgo, finagpu` nobena yan otru siha asuntun familia yan hihot na bisinu. Dispues de todu debi umanana`lu ayu na nina`e.

Chagu` na difirensia yan nina`en gineftau `sino regalu ginen man-atuñgu`. Namagof pot kanaha` todu gotpe mangeftau hit na tautague yan fitme gi oran ina`ayuda. Mas ha simientu respetau na dinaña` natibu!

Miskinu: Guaha lokue` kustumbren miskinu. Kumeke ileghu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

achog machuchuda buchiña ya sumen chatsaga hau gi un` banda, ti u hatsa kanaiña man-na`e maseha dididi` pot che`chu` karidat yan kilisyanu. Ti hu lañgag umupus prohimu-hu ni gai chinatsaga.

Gineftau gi namase` todu i tiempu ha bibiragues` tatte dopble ke ninai-mu. Para i mamopblen mame hu soda` un` patgon ni matiteg todu magaguña na esta hu bira matahu pot tihu hoñge. Hu manauyu` para iya hame man-aligau `an sopblan unu gi che`luhu para i prohimu. Felis ayu na ayudu-hu.

Benti tantus añus dispues, umasodayu` yan i prohimu. Esta magradua gi kolehu ya mauleg puestoña gi un` dañkulun kompania giya Los Angeles. Sin ditension, ha togtugyu` ya ilegña 'Si Yuus Maase` nu i ayudumu". Ha mente dispues na guahu ha pega kumu moduña gi bandan yine`ase` yan mauleg na akonsehu. Tatnai sumeha man-ayuda gi manchatsaga siha na famaguon giya LA. Mit grasias!

**Finu` Chamoru:** I kantata "Palasyon I Riku" guaha dididi` chinatsaga gi palabra yan ma-apotsu` na liñguahe. Ilegña un` kantot, "Ti gi un` palasyon i riku `nai gaige tano`hu". I palabra "kamahu" ti "tano`hu". Dispues repara sa` ni ñgai`an `nai siña unna` hulat un` tanu gi buttun guma`! Haf` mohon?

Some essential reading for ethically compromised parents

I've taught my share of university students who never wanted for anything materially in this world. Most were inspiring—a delight to teach. But there was an obstinate minority of grade-grubbing scoundrels, ready to cut corners to get ahead.

Once, I observed a student peering over his neighbor's shoulders during a midterm exam. After the test, my suspicions were confirmed. Lookie-Loo offered the same wrong answers as his neighbor on seven consecutive difficult and idiosyncratic questions.

Soon after, I received an email from the classmate who'd unwillingly had his answers cribbed. He reported the incident and begged me to preserve his anonymity.

Armed with the evidence, I confronted the cheating student and failed him on the exam. He protested. Fine, I said. Let's escalate this to the department chair. But if she concludes you cheated, I warned him, we will also escalate the punishment—from failure on just the exam to failure of the class.

Days later, the student's helicopter parents swooped onto campus to take up his cause. I nearly fell out of my seat when I heard his father's diatribe. He didn't defend his son's innocence, as I expected him to. Instead, he protested our "handling" of his son's case. I'm a tax attorney on Long Island, the father explained. I witness people cheat all the time. Why are you singling out my boy for such shaming? This punishment is harsh for such a routine thing. The well-heeled father sounded genuinely offended that we were failing his son instead of giving him a "do-over."

I thought of that father when I read about Gordon Caplan, a highflying corporate lawyer who allegedly paid $75,000 to have another person take his daughter's ACT exam. "To be honest, I'm not worried about the moral issue here," he told William Singer, the scam's mastermind and ringleader. "I'm worried about if she's caught."

While teaching, I saw repeatedly the extent to which my students' ethics—or ethical lapses—were shaped by their helicopter parents. Now, I'd love to be the one to put a learning on those adults. The private equity managers, actors, retail executives and physicians indicted this week are all invited to use this annotated syllabus on the bigger lessons of this sordid, revealing episode—my core curriculum for accused cheater parents.

"The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans Are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead," by David Callahan

Through riveting interviews and impressive data, Callahan lays out America's dog-eat-dog economic culture, which favors unfettered markets, worsens economic inequality and incites personal anxiety. The devastating takeaway from this book is that widespread cheating not only erodes the country's ethics; it also undercuts opportunity and sensible, fair rules in private businesses and government. The result is a downward spiral: A rigged economy and politics breed more inequality, anxiety and cheating, then more inequality and on and on.

"Educated: A Memoir," by Tara Westover

Tara Westover spent her youth working in her father's junkyard. A rabid white survivalist, he forbade her from going to school, pushing his fear and mistrust of public schools and modern medicine onto his daughter. But she escaped their isolated home on an Idaho mountain, finally setting foot in a classroom at age 17. From there, she graduated magna cum laude from Brigham Young and ultimately earned a doctorate from Cambridge. This harrowing memoir shows a young woman's grit melding with her work ethic and dazzling intellect, as she freed herself from the narratives imposed on her by family and her constricted world—all to achieve a fact-based, enchanting life of the mind, a true education.

"When Affirmative Action Was White: An Untold History of Racial Inequality," by Ira Katznelson

By RICH BENJAMIN
Los Angeles Times

Rich Benjamin (@IamRichBenjamin) is the author of Searching for Whitopia: An Improbable Journey to the Heart of White America. *His journalism receives support from the Economic Hardship Reporting Project.*

Black and Latinx Twitter blew up last week—chock-full of stories about black and brown people chronically facing assumptions that they got accepted to colleges only because of their race. Katznelson's thoughtful history demonstrates why those assumptions might be better directed to white students. He traces all the ways that signature public programs, funded by everyone's tax dollars, were designed and run to give whites unearned advantages over blacks. This book offers a sober, widely unknown history of white adults stealing unearned privilege, legally and illegally, across different domains, from housing to education. As in the the current cheating scam, preferential treatment has strategically skewed white.

"Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life," by William Deresiewicz

Deresiewicz, a former professor and admissions committee member at Yale, delivers this brash but nuanced manifesto on what's wrong with elite colleges. He begins with an incisive expose of the high-pressure sausage-making behind elite admissions—parents, counselors, college officers—then an examination of the students who make it through. The nation's supposed brightest students, Deresiewicz argues, have, in their striving for achievement, lost their ability to think critically and creatively and to find a sense of purpose.

"The Tyranny of the Meritocracy: Democratizing Higher Education," by Lani Guinier

Harvard law professor Guinier delivers an uplifting vision for higher education. She demands we abandon America's "Testocracy," which obsesses over standardized test scores that measure little more than access to privilege, in favor of a truly collaborative approach to admissions and education that emphasizes people's holistic competence. This wake-up call asks America to shatter its current higher education paradigm, because it is neither equitable nor effective.

NEW ZEALAND

From Page 10

Kingdom made their already strict gun laws even stricter after a 1996 mass shooting in a school. Gunshot deaths in those places are rare.

Some thought that the US was finally going to reckon with gun violence in 2012's massacre of 20 children and six adult staffers in Newtown, Connecticut. Almost 2,000 mass shootings followed, and still, action on the federal level is nowhere in sight.

The last time major gun control legislation was signed into law was 1994. At the end of February, the House passed a sweeping gun control bill. It is unlikely to pass the Senate. Congress' support for protecting the NRA and gun advocates who value an interpretation of the Constitution above human life is shameful.

Maybe New Zealand's immediate response to this tragedy will remind our own representatives that change is possible, and we, too, can choose life over guns.

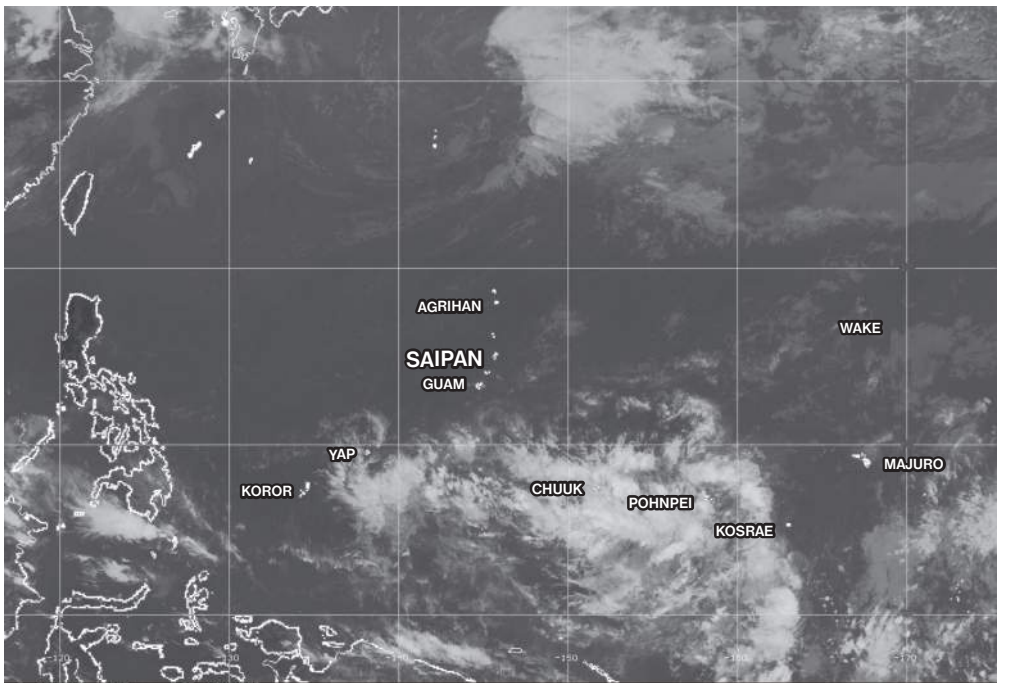
(c)2019 *The Philadelphia Inquirer*

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:30 AM, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A dry season weather pattern will persist through the coming weekend. While there may be brief periods of clouds and showers at times the predominant weather will be partly cloudy skies with isolated showers. To illustrate how dry it will be, models predict that the total rainfall total for the next 10 days will be only a half an inch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Showers	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	61° / 34°
Hong Kong	Showers	77° / 64°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 69°
London	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	64° / 52°
Manila	Sunny	93° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	76° / 59°
New York	Mostly Sunny	50° / 35°
Osaka	Showers	55° / 41°
Paris	Sunny	63° / 37°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	55° / 39°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	72° / 46°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	66° / 40°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	56° / 47°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	50° / 28°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 43°
Washington, DC	Showers	57° / 42°

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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:48 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.21
8:09 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.08
2:16 PM	LOW TIDE	0.48
7:55 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.10

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Thursday	6:21 AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:20 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:19 AM	6:28 PM
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	6:18 AM	6:28 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Thursday	-	6:25 AM	6:44 PM
Friday	-	7:12 AM	7:44 PM
Saturday	-	7:58 AM	8:42 PM
Sunday	-	8:44 AM	9:39 PM
Monday	-	9:31 AM	10:35 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 5, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:00pm	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/1936:25pm		11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:55pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	6:25pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	00:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA192/174	9:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:50pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Disney closes $71B deal for Fox entertainment assets

By MAE ANDERSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Disney has closed its $71 billion acquisition of Fox's entertainment business, putting "Cinderella," ''The Simpsons," ''Star Wars" and "Spider-Man" under one corporate roof.

The deal is likely to shake up the media landscape. Among other things, it paves the way for Disney to launch its streaming service, Disney Plus, due out later this year.

By buying the studios behind "The Simpsons" and X-Men, Disney aims to better compete with technology companies such as Amazon and Netflix for viewers' attention—and dollars.

Disney needs compelling TV shows and movies to persuade viewers to sign up and pay for yet another streaming service. It already has classic Disney cartoons, "Star Wars," Pixar, the Muppets and some of the Marvel characters. With Fox, Disney could add Marvel's X-Men and Deadpool, along with programs shown on such Fox channels as FX Networks and National Geographic. Fox's productions also include "The Americans," ''This Is Us" and "Modern Family."

AP

Cars enter and leave Fox Studios, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in Los Angeles. Disney has closed its $71 acquisition of Fox's entertainment business on Wednesday, March 20, in a move set to shake up the media landscape.

The deal helps Disney further control TV shows and movies from start to finish - from creating the programs to distributing them though television channels, movie theaters, streaming services and other ways people watch entertainment. Disney would get valuable data on customers and their entertainment-viewing habits, which it can then use to sell advertising.

Disney CEO Bob Iger said in an earnings call in February that Disney Plus and other direct-to-consumer businesses are Disney's "No. 1 priority."

Cable and telecom companies have been buying the companies that make TV shows and movies to compete in a changing media landscape. Although internet providers like AT&T and Comcast directly control their customers' access to the internet in a way that Amazon, YouTube and Netflix do not, they still face threats as those streaming services gain in popularity.

AT&T bought Time Warner last year for $81 billion and has already launched its own streaming service, Watch TV, with Time Warner channels such as TBS and TNT, among other networks, for $15 a month.

In addition to boosting the Disney streaming service, expected to debut next year, the deal paves the way for Marvel's X-Men and the Avengers to reunite in future movies. Though Disney owns Marvel Studios, some characters including the X-Men had already been licensed to Fox.

Disney also gets a controlling stake in the existing streaming service Hulu, which it plans to keep operating as a home for more general programming. Family-friendly shows and movies will head to Disney Plus.

No pricing has been disclosed for Disney Plus. The streaming service will feature five categories of material: Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars and National Geographic. Disney charges $5 a month for ESPN Plus, a service that offers programming distinct from the ESPN cable channel.

Meanwhile, Fox Corp. — the parts of 21st Century Fox that are not part of the deal, including Fox News, Fox Sports and Fox Broadcasting — started trading on the Nasdaq under the "FOX" and "FOXA" tickers on Tuesday.

Facebook to overhaul ad targeting to prevent discrimination

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Facebook will overhaul its ad-targeting systems to prevent discrimination in housing , credit and employment ads as part of a legal settlement.

For the social network, that's one major legal problem down, several to go, including government investigations in the U.S. and Europe over its data and privacy practices.

The changes to Facebook's advertising methods —which generate most of the company's enormous profits—are unprecedented. The social network says it will no longer allow housing, employment or credit ads that target people by age, gender or zip code. Facebook will also limit other targeting options so these ads don't exclude people on the basis of race, ethnicity and other legally protected categories in the U.S., including national origin and sexual orientation.

The social media company is also paying about $5 million to cover plaintiffs' legal fees and other costs.

Facebook and the plaintiffs—a group including the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Fair Housing Alliance and others —called the settlement "historic." It took 18 months to hammer out. The company still faces an administrative complaint filed by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in August over the housing ads issue.

What's not yet clear is how well the safeguards will work. Facebook has been working to address a slew of social consequences related to its platform, with varying degrees of success. Last week, it scrambled to remove graphic video filmed by a gunman in the New Zealand mosque shootings, but the footage remained available for hours on its site and elsewhere on social media.

Earlier in March, CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced a new "privacy-focused vision" for the company to focus on messaging instead of more public sharing—but he stayed mum on overhauling Facebook's privacy practices in its core business.

Galen Sherwin, senior staff attorney at the ACLU and the group's lead attorney on its suit, praised the settlement as "sweeping" and said she expects it to have ripple effects through the tech industry.

Facebook agreed to let the groups test its ad systems to ensure they don't enable discrimination. The company also agreed to meet with the groups every six months for the next three years, and is building a tool to let anyone search housing-related ads in the U.S. targeted to different areas across the country.

Discrimination hasn't been Facebook's only problem with ad targeting. It's taken fire for allowing advertisers to target groups of people identified as "Jew-haters" and Nazi sympathizers. It's also still dealing with fallout from the 2016 election, when, among other things, Facebook allowed fake Russian accounts to buy ads targeting U.S. users to stir up political divisions.

One of the complaints said that Facebook violated the Fair Housing Act because its targeting systems allow advertisers to exclude certain audiences, such as families with young children or disabled people, from seeing housing ads. Others alleged job discrimination, with ads being shown to men but not women in traditionally male-dominated fields, or only to younger users.

As part of the changes, advertisers who want to run housing, employment or credit ads will no longer be allowed to target people by age, gender or zip code. Facebook will also limit the targeting categories available for such ads. For example, such advertisers wouldn't be able to exclude groups such as "soccer moms" or people who joined a group on black hair care.

Italy to join China's Belt and Road initiative over US worry

MILAN (AP)—Premier Giuseppe Conte pledged Tuesday to make Italy the first Group of Seven nation to join China's ambitious Belt and Road initiative, despite objections from the United States and concerns within his governing coalition.

Speaking to parliament, Conte said that Italy's signing of a memorandum of understanding for the infrastructure-building venture, which is due to happen during the Chinese premier's visit this week, would not "in the least" put into question Italy's position within the strategic trans-Atlantic alliance or with European partners.

Italy's signature would be considered a major legitimation of the project that envisions overland and maritime routes connecting China with Europe. A White House official has warned Italy against joining, calling it a Chinese "vanity project."

European governments declined to sign a joint declaration on the "Belt and Road" at a forum last year in Beijing. They argued it lacked standards on financing and transparency.

In his first remarks to lawmakers on the deal on the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit, Conte said the details have been worked out over months of consultations at every level of government. He emphasized that the memorandum is not legally binding and that it would give Italy access to an enormous market.

"We want to first and foremost rebalance our trade, which is not favorable to us now. Our exports to China are far lower than other European countries," Conte said.

"The infrastructure will redefine commercial traffic routes. We will have new airports, new trade corridors, and it will certainly influence our economic growth. We don't want to lose any opportunity."

China's foreign ministry said Wednesday that Xi will visit Sicily in addition to Rome, with plans to meet with Italian President Sergio Mattarella as well as Conte. It also defended the Belt and Road initiative against naysayers in Italy.

"During the process of developing the Belt and Road initiative cooperation, it is inevitable that we may encounter some misunderstandings and even doubts," said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Chao. "But facts will always speak louder than words."

Wang said an agreement between China and Italy would be beneficial for both countries' economic development.

"As for ... whether it will help promote trade for Italy, I think it is absolutely 'Yes,'" he said.

Pressed about Chinese investments in Italian ports and whether there is an excess in infrastructure developments, given Chinese existing investments in the area that could lead to additional debt, Wang said Chinese investments are decided by market rules.

"Whether to invest in a region or not, I believe that will be decided by the market" Wang said without elaborating.

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Nation

Floodwaters threaten millions in crop and livestock losses

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Farmer Jeff Jorgenson looks out over 750 acres of cropland submerged beneath the swollen Missouri River, and he knows he probably won't plant this year.

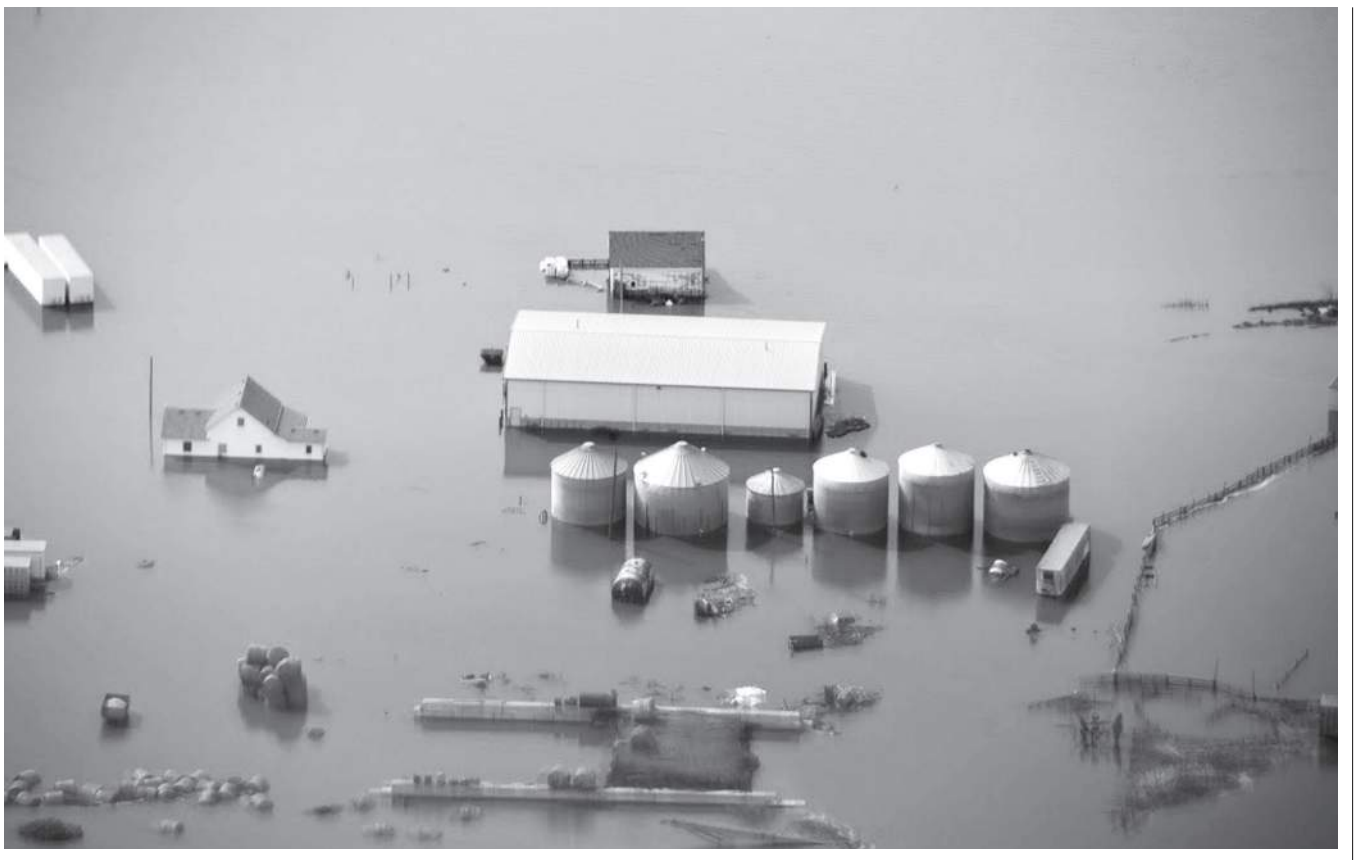
But that's not his biggest worry. He and other farmers have worked until midnight for days to move grain, equipment and fuel barrels away from the floodwaters fed by heavy rain and snowmelt. The rising water that has damaged hundreds of homes and been blamed for three deaths has also taken a heavy toll on agriculture, inundating thousands of acres, threatening stockpiled grain and killing livestock.

In Fremont County alone, Jorgenson estimates that more than a million bushels of corn and nearly half a million bushels of soybeans have been lost after water overwhelmed grain bins before they could be emptied of last year's crop. His calculation using local grain prices puts the financial loss at more than $7 million in grain alone. That's for about 28 farmers in his immediate area, he said.

Once it's deposited in bins, grain is not insured, so it's just lost money. This year farmers have stored much more grain than normal because of a large crop last year and fewer markets in which to sell soybeans because of a trade dispute with China.

"The economy in agriculture is not very good right now. It will end some of these folks farming, family legacies, family farms," he said. "There will be farmers that will be dealing with so much of a negative they won't be able to tolerate it."

Jorgenson, 43, who has farmed since 1998, reached out to friends Saturday, and they helped him move his grain out of bins to an elevator. Had they not acted, he would have lost $135,000.



This Monday, March 18, 2019 photo taken by the South Dakota Civil Air Patrol and provided by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, shows flooding along the Missouri River in rural Iowa north of Omaha, Neb. AP

Vice President Mike Pence surveyed flooded areas in Nebraska Tuesday, where he viewed the raging Elkhorn river, talked to first responders and visited a shelter for displaced people. He promised expedited action on presidential disaster declarations for Iowa and Nebraska.

"We're going to make sure that federal resources are there for you," Pence told volunteers at Waterloo, a town of less than 1,000 residents about 21 miles (34 kilometers) west of Omaha that was virtually cut off by the floodwaters.

The flooding is expected to continue throughout the week in several states as high water flows down the Missouri River. Swollen rivers have already breached more than a dozen levees in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri, according to the Army Corps of Engineers.

The flooding, which started after a massive late-winter storm last week, has also put some hog farms in southwest Iowa underwater. The dead animals inside must be disposed of, Reynolds said.

The water rose so quickly that farmers in many areas had no time to get animals out, said Chad Hart, an agricultural economist at Iowa State University.

"Places that haven't seen animal loss have seen a lot of animal stress. That means they're not gaining weight and won't be marketed in as timely a manner, which results in additional cost," he said.

In all, Nebraska Farm Bureau President Steve Nelson estimated $400 million of crop losses from fields left unplanted or planted late and up to $500 million in livestock losses.

In a news release issued Tuesday, Gov. Pete Ricketts said there have been deadlier disasters in Nebraska but never one as widespread. He said 65 of the state's 93 counties are under emergency declarations.

In neighboring Missouri, water was just shy of getting into Ryonee McCann's home along a recreational lake in Holt County, where about 40,000 acres (16,188 hectares) and hundreds of homes have been flooded. She said her home sits on an 8-foot (2.5-meter) foundation.

"We have no control over it," the 38-year-old said. "We just have to wait for the water to recede. It's upsetting because everything you have worked for is there."

The Missouri River was forecast to crest Thursday morning at 11.6 feet above flood stage in St. Joseph, Missouri, the third highest crest on record. More than 100 roads are closed in the state, including a growing section of Interstate 29.

Leaders of the small northwestern Missouri town of Craig ordered an evacuation. The Holt County Sheriff's Department said residents who choose to stay must go to City Hall to provide their name and address in case they need to be rescued.

In nearby Atchison County, Missouri, floodwaters knocked out a larger section of an already busted levee overnight, making the village of Watson unreachable, said Mark Manchester, the county's deputy director of emergency management/911.

ACROSS THE NATION

Border patrol announces 4th migrant death since December

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Immigration officials say a Mexican migrant died Monday after his arrest near an urban border crossing. U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the death Tuesday, saying agents arrested the 40-year-old man early Sunday for re-entering the country illegally. His identity wasn't released. He died at an El Paso hospital after receiving treatment for flu-like symptoms and liver and kidney failure. He's the fourth migrant to die in CBP custody since December, including an 8-year-old boy and a 7-year-old girl. Border Patrol Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said this month the system "is well beyond capacity and remains at the breaking point." In a statement, ACLU Border Rights Center Director Astrid Dominguez said "a transparent and independent investigation into the conditions at CBP detention facilities and its medical care practices is needed immediately."

No timetable for end to fire at Texas chemical facility

HOUSTON (AP)—Officials said Tuesday that they're not sure when a fire at a Houston-area petrochemicals storage facility will burn itself out, but they are confident that the air quality is safe, despite the huge plume of smoke coming from the blaze. Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo said at a news conference that monitors show the levels of contaminants in the air are safe and that the plume coming from the site in Deer Park, southeast of Houston, is reaching at least 4,000 feet (1,219 meters) up and staying high enough so that the air quality at ground level is safe. "It's understandable why people would be scared," said Hidalgo, the county's top administrator. "We're sharing information with the public so that everybody knows what we know, what we're doing and where we're headed." The plume could carry particulates as high as 6,200 feet, officials said, but fog is forecast for the area Wednesday morning that could drag the plume downward, making the air quality more hazardous.

San Francisco pays $13.1 million to man framed for murder

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A man who spent more than six years in prison after police framed him for murder received a $13.1 million settlement from the city of San Francisco on Tuesday. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to settle a civil rights lawsuit filed by Jamal Trulove. The settlement was part of the board's consent calendar and was approved without comment. San Francisco's city attorney and Trulove's lawyers negotiated terms of the settlement before it was presented to the board for approval. Trulove was an aspiring actor and hip-hop artist when he was arrested for the 2007 murder of his friend and neighbor in a low-income housing project. A jury convicted him of murder in 2010 and he was sentenced to life in prison. Alex Reisman, one of Trulove's lawyers, said Trulove spent eight years in maximum security prisons, mostly in Southern California hundreds of miles from family. He was also stabbed, Reisman said. "He endured a lot," Reisman said.

San Francisco floats ban on e-cigarettes pending US review

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco is trying to crack down on electronic cigarettes that critics say aggressively target kids, with an official on Tuesday proposed what's believed to be the first U.S. ban on their sale until the federal government regulates vaping products.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera said San Francisco, Chicago and New York sent a joint letter demanding that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration evaluate the effect of e-cigarettes on public health.

Herrera said the review should have been done before e-cigarettes entered the market. The FDA released proposed guidelines last week giving companies until 2021 to submit applications for the evaluation.

"The result is that millions of children are already addicted to e-cigarettes and millions more will follow if we don't act," he said Tuesday.

Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is addictive and can harm adolescent brains that are still developing. In the U.S., youth are more likely than adults to use e-cigarettes.

San Francisco Supervisor Shamann Walton introduced legislation banning the sale of e-cigarettes in the city unless they get an FDA review. Supporters say that if the measure is approved, it would be the first such prohibition in the country. Its chances are not clear.

"We have people addicted to nicotine who would have never smoked a cigarette had it not been for the attractive products that target our young people," said Walton, a former president of the San Francisco Board of Education.

Anti-tobacco activists say e-cigarette makers target kids by offering products in candy flavors and using marketing that portrays their products as flashy gadgets.

San Francisco was the first city in the United States to approve an outright ban on the sale of flavored tobacco and flavored vaping liquids, which voters upheld in 2018. The city prohibits smoking in parks and public squares and doesn't allow smokeless tobacco at its playing fields.

The city has often been on the forefront in passing liberal social policies that clash with business interests, whether it's banning single-use plastic bags or the sale of fur products.

Asia

NZ city scarred by shooting is home to white supremacists

By STEPHEN WRIGHT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—The leafy New Zealand city where a self-proclaimed racist fatally shot 50 people at mosques during Friday prayers is known for its picturesque meandering river and English heritage. For decades, Christchurch has also been the center of the country's small but persistent white supremacist movement.

An expert on such fringe groups says it's probably more than coincidence that the accused mosque shooter, 28-year-old Australian Brenton Tarrant, settled in the region, known for a whiter demographic than the country's north, after frequently traveling abroad in 2016-2018 in what appears to have been an extreme-right pilgrimage.

He went mostly to areas of Europe with a long history of sectarian dispute, including clashes between Renaissance Europe and the Ottoman Empire and the breakup of Yugoslavia following its ethnic and religious conflicts.

The attack has upended New Zealand's image as one of the world's safest and most tolerant countries. It also has highlighted apparent failings by security and intelligence services to view white supremacists as a real threat or to take seriously warnings from Muslim groups of a rise in Islamophobic and xenophobic incidents in recent years.

Tarrant planned his attack on two mosques meticulously and had resolved two years earlier to kill Muslims, according to a manifesto he published moments before the massacre. He actively planned the Christchurch shootings for the past three months, he said in the manifesto posted online and emailed to the office of New Zealand's prime minister minutes before driving to his first target, the golden-domed Al Noor mosque.

Police say they are certain Tarrant was the only gunman but may have had support and are investigating that possibility. He had five guns, two of which were converted into semi-automatic weapons. It's likely that at least some were legally purchased online from a Christchurch gun store.

Possible links between the shooter and white supremacists in New Zealand's south have been alleged by recreational gun user and hunting guide Pete Breidahl.

In a video posted on Facebook on Saturday, he said he complained in late 2017 to an arms officer—a local police officer who monitors people's gun licenses—about the disturbing behavior of members of a rifle club in the southern city of Dunedin that Tarrant reportedly joined.

In the video and comments posted online, Breidahl said the club members had Confederate flags, wore camouflage clothing with rank insignia, vilified Muslims and had homicidal fantasies. He claimed to have met Tarrant, calling him "not right." Police said they have no record of a complaint but are looking into Breidahl's claims further.

Academic Paul Spoonley, who has extensively researched white supremacist groups in New Zealand, said they have been relatively quiet in Christchurch since a 2011 earthquake that forced whole neighborhoods to move and altered the city's demographics with an influx of migrant workers for reconstruction.

"They've been quieter recently but they haven't gone away. They are still here," he said, citing a 2016 incident in which pigs' heads were left at the Al Noor mosque, where 42 people died in Friday's massacre.

A business owner in Christchurch has also attracted media attention since the massacre because his company's vans were emblazoned with neo-Nazi references including the "black sun" symbol that Tarrant's guns were covered with. The same images, which are used as the company's branding, appear on its website.

When AP visited the registered business address, located in one of Christchurch's poorer neighborhoods, three of its vans were parked opposite, their "black sun" imagery removed but still identifiable by a company website address on them. A visibly hostile man standing beside the vans, who did not appear to be the business owner, did not want to answer questions.

Police on Tuesday said they had arrested a 44-year-old man in Christchurch for distributing objectionable material and he would appear in court the next day.

According to Spoonley, the level of hate crimes in New Zealand is low compared with other countries as is the number of white supremacists, but it's "always a challenge to get people to accept that they exist."

"There's a reluctance to see equivalence between the risks presented by right-wing extremist groups and radical Islamic and leftist groups," he said.

Neighboring Australia's white supremacist scene is more virulent, in part reflecting the history of its "White Australia" immigration policy which existed in various forms from soon after Federation in 1901 to as late as 1973. In modern times, the rise of a succession of prominent right-wing politicians—starting with Pauline Hanson and her One Nation Party in the mid-1990s—also legitimized such views.

Spoonley estimates there are 200-250 hardcore white supremacists in New Zealand and about 300-400 people on the edges.

"I would be very surprised if Tarrant didn't make some sort of contact," he said.

The groups, which emerged in the late 1960s, have evolved over time, coalescing for years around fear of New Zealand moving too far from its British roots, anti-Semitism and opposition to Maori sovereignty and Asian immigrants, and then shifting to Islamophobia following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S.

Spoonley, who researched extreme-right groups in the U.K. in the 1970s, said when he returned to New Zealand in the 1980s he was told by authorities there were no similar organizations.

AP

A mourner prays near the Linwood mosque in Christchurch, New Zealand, Tuesday, March 19, 2019. Christchurch was beginning to return to a semblance of normalcy Tuesday. Streets near the hospital that had been closed for four days reopened to traffic as relatives and friends of Friday's shooting victims continued to stream in from around the world.

Christchurch, New Zealand
Population: 388,400
Religious demographics:
- **No religion:** 45.5%
- **Christian:** 47.5%
- **Buddhist:** 1.3%
- **Hindu:** 1.0%
- **Muslim:** 0.8%

Graphic: Tribune News Service
Source: Christchurch City Council

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines seizes drugs in upscale area, arrests 4 Chinese

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities have seized more than 160 kilograms (350 pounds) of methamphetamine concealed in tea wrappers in their second-largest drug haul this year in a sign of how the problem has persisted despite the president's bloody crackdown on illegal drugs. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency chief Aaron Aquino says three Chinese nationals and a Chinese-Filipino man, who works as an interpreter, were arrested late Tuesday during "buy-bust" raids in an upscale residential enclave and outside a shopping mall in metropolitan Manila. Aquino said Wednesday the drugs were concealed in tea wrappers similar to those seized in Malaysia, Thailand and Myanmar and indicated an international syndicate was behind the trafficking. Thousands of mostly poor drug suspects have died in President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown on illegal drugs since he took office in mid-2016.

Concern raised over SKorean treatment of Bloomberg reporter

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—International journalists' organizations are criticizing the status of press freedom in South Korea after the country's ruling party singled out a Bloomberg reporter with South Korean nationality over what it claimed was a "borderline traitorous" article insulting President Moon Jae-in, resulting in threats to the reporter's safety. The Democratic Party initially said Tuesday that it had no immediate plans to withdraw a March 13 statement by spokesman Lee Hae-sik, who attacked the reporter by name over a September article whose headline described the liberal Moon as acting as the "top spokesman" of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at the U.N. General Assembly. However, hours later, Lee said in an email that the party has decided to remove the reporter's name and personal details from the statement and that it apologizes to members of the foreign press "if it caused misunderstanding."

Japan urged to stop requiring transgender sterilization

TOKYO (AP)—Human Rights Watch is urging Japan to drop its requirement that transgender people be sterilized to have their gender changed on official documents. A 2004 law states people wishing to register a gender change must have their original reproductive organs removed and have a body that "appears to have parts that resemble the genital organs" of the gender they want to register. The Supreme Court in January rejected an appeal by a transgender man who wanted legal recognition without undergoing surgery. Human Rights Watch said the compulsory sterilization requirement is abusive and outdated. A report the international rights group released Wednesday said requiring invasive and irreversible medical procedures violates the rights of transgender people who want their gender identity legally recognized.

World

Venezuelans find ways to cope with inflation and hunger

AP
Eight-year-old Franyelis feeds her baby brother Joneiber as their mother Francibel Contreras holds a bowl of scrambled eggs and rice, at a soup kitchen in the Petare slum, Caracas, Venezuela.

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Francibel Contreras brings her three malnourished children to a soup kitchen in the dangerous hillside Caracas slum of Petare where they scoop in spoonfuls of rice and scrambled eggs in what could be their only meal of the day.

Part of the tragedy of daily life in socialist Venezuela can be glimpsed in this small volunteer soup kitchen in the heart of one of Latin America's biggest slums, which helps dozens of children as well as unemployed mothers who can no longer feed them.

Some Venezuelans manage to endure the nation's economic meltdown by clinging to the shrinking number of well-paid jobs or by receiving some of the hundreds of millions of dollars sent home by friends and relatives abroad—a quantity that has swollen in recent years as millions of Venezuelans have fled.

But a growing percentage of people across the country, especially in slums like Petare, are struggling to cope.

Contreras's husband, Jorge Flores, used to have a small stand at a local market selling things like bananas and yucca, eggs and lunchmeat—trying to scrape out a profit in a place where hyperinflation often made his wholesale costs double from day to day. Then he was robbed at gunpoint by a local gang. And his brother crashed the motorcycle he used to supply his stand.

So Flores abandoned the market stall and looked for other work. He does some plumbing jobs and the family has turned its living room into a barbershop, sheltered beneath a corrugated metal roof held down by loose bricks and planks. It's decorated with origami-like stars that the family has made out of Venezuela's colorful but rapidly depreciating bolivar bills.

"Our currency is worthless," Contreras said. "These days, I prefer trading a bag of flour for a manicure or a haircut."

The scarcity of milk, medicine and other basics—along with routine violence—has eroded support for socialist President Nicolas Maduro even in poor neighborhoods like Petare that once were his strongholds. Maduro says there's an opposition-led plot to oust him from power and says U.S. economic sanctions and local opposition sabotage are responsible for the meltdown.

Various local polls show he retains support from roughly a fifth of the population, many of them ideological stalwarts, government-connected insiders or poor voters dependent on government handouts, including the so-called CLAP boxes of oil, flour, rice, pasta, canned tuna and other goods that arrive several times a year.

Contreras' family of four gets those boxes, but it's not enough to get by on for long. For months, they've been relying on the soup kitchen launched by opposition politicians as the main source of protein for their children. On a recent day, her 7-year-old son Jorbeicker played a pickup soccer game in the hilly, dusty streets in front of her home, while her husband practiced styling his mother's hair.

"I'm barely getting by," Flores said, scissors in hand.

The four-day power outage that brought most of Venezuela to a halt this month added to Flores' misery. He wasn't able to use the electric clippers needed to give customers the sort of trims they demand.

"It hit us in a big way," he said. "You absolutely need the clippers."

The couple estimates the power outage cost the family the equivalent of $11 in missed haircuts—a significant sum in a country where the minimum wage amounts to $6 a month, even if most people supplement that figure by working side jobs and pooling resources with friends and neighbors.

Dutch prosecutors consider terror motive in tram shooting

UTRECHT, Netherlands (AP)—Dutch investigators probing the deadly tram shooting in the city of Utrecht sharpened their focus Tuesday on a possible extremist motive, as judicial authorities revealed that the main suspect was released from jail this month and faces a rape trial in July.

The nature of the Monday's attack and a note found in a suspected getaway car suggest a possible terror motive, prosecutors said in a statement, but they add that other possible reasons also are being investigated.

"Based on the letter, we think he had a terroristic motive," police spokesman Joost Lanshage told The Associated Press. He declined to elaborate.

Speaking in parliament, anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders said the note expressed support for the suspect's "Muslim brothers."

Prosecutors also said that investigations so far have not established any relationship at all between the main suspect, Gokmen Tanis, and the shooting victims.

Three people died: a 19-year-old woman from the neighboring town of Vianen, and two men aged 28 and 49 from Utrecht.

Three others were seriously wounded and four more suffered minor injuries, according to prosecutors.

Late Tuesday, police said they had detained a 40-year-old man in Utrecht on suspicion of involvement. Police said the man "is suspected of involvement in the shooting. His role is under further investigation." Police also released two other men arrested after the shooting and said they were no longer considered suspects. Tanis remains in custody.

Throughout the day, well-wishers placed flowers at the foot of a tree next to the intersection where the shooting happened. At the end of the afternoon, Prime Minister Mark Rutte and Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus also laid bouquets and briefly talked to police officers at the scene.

Tanis, a 37-year-old man of Turkish descent, was being held on suspicion of "manslaughter with terrorist intent."

He was arrested Monday evening after an hours-long manhunt that nearly paralyzed the Netherlands' fourth-largest city and sent shockwaves through the nation. Police recovered a weapon when they arrested him.

In an unusual step, judicial authorities released details of Tanis' criminal past, and said he was released from jail on March 1 and faces trial in July on a rape charge. A court had approved his release after he pledged to cooperate with authorities.

In the past, he was acquitted of manslaughter but convicted of illegal possession of a weapon and theft.

Wilders called on Justice Minister Ferd Grapperhaus to resign, saying that Tanis shouldn't have been released from jail.

"You are politically responsible for this," Wilders said during a parliamentary debate. "You have to resign, get out of here."

The tram shootings came just days after 50 people were killed when an immigrant-hating Australian white supremacist opened fire in two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, during Friday prayers. There was no indication of any link between the two events.

Cyclone's huge floods leave hundreds dead in southern Africa

ROME (AP)—Russia and the United States remain split on how to resolve the crisis in Venezuela, officials from both powers said Tuesday after talks in Rome.

Elliott Abrams, the Trump administration's special envoy to Venezuela, met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov to discuss the situation in the Latin American country.

"We did not come to a meeting of the minds, but the talks were positive in the sense that I think both sides emerged with a better understanding of the other's views," Abrams told reporters after the meeting at a luxury hotel in Rome.

He said it's "perfectly plausible" that the two sides meet again but no date was set.

Russia backs Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and has accused Washington of meddling in the country's affairs by pressing him to step down and hand over power to opposition leader Juan Guaido.

Speaking to Russian media, Ryabkov emphasized the need for dialogue with the U.S. but warned Washington against military intervention.

Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, TNS

President Donald Trump has said "all options are on the table" regarding Venezuela, which Russia interprets as a refusal to exclude military force, Ryabkov said.

"We have warned the U.S. against that reckless approach," Ryabkov said in remarks that were carried by the state Tass and RIA Novosti news agencies.

Abrams insisted the U.S. will continue to keep its options open, but said it has chosen the path of putting political, financial and diplomatic pressure on Maduro's regime.

Earlier, Abrams met with government officials from Italy—one of four European Union countries that have not backed Guaido as Venezuela's interim president—and paid a visit to the Vatican. He noted that the Catholic Church enjoys respect and credibility in Venezuela, but said it's unclear what role if any the Vatican could play in its political crisis.

Pope Francis has reportedly written to Maduro indicating conditions aren't ripe for the Vatican to step in and help mediate.

Also Tuesday, the U.S. added a Venezuelan state-owned mining company to a growing sanctions list as it seeks to increase pressure on Maduro.

The new sanctions bar any U.S. citizen or entity from any financial transactions with the gold mining company known as Minerven and its president, Adrian Antonio Perdomo Mata.

The U.S. Treasury Department said the company is helping to prop up Maduro, who alleges that he is the target of a U.S. coup plot.

Environment

Some sunscreens may kill corals. Should they be banned?

By REBECCA BEITSCH
STATELINE.ORG

WASHINGTON—Environmentalists and Democratic lawmakers increasingly are working to bar the sale of sunscreens that may damage coral reefs, but the bans are dividing a surprising group: coral scientists.

Hawaii last year became the first state to ban sales of sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate, chemicals that are found in as much as three-quarters of sunscreens on the U.S. market. Key West, Fla., followed suit last month, making it the first city to ban sales of such sunscreens. Florida and California are considering similar bans.

The bans are a response to a decline in coral health. Corals around the world have been stressed to the point of turning white, or "bleaching," which happens when they expel the energy-supplying algae that live within them.

Scientists often cite warming oceans because of climate change as the main culprit, but initial research shows sun-blocking chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate also might be damaging corals, spurring bleaching.

Scientists disagree, though, over whether the evidence merits banning sales of sunscreen with the substances. Last month, many scientists and professors who specialize in corals, toxicology and chemistry flooded the Coral-List, a Listserv run by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with comments for and against such bans.

Even among a group of people with a strong interest in protecting coral health, the discussion was divisive, with some accusing the sunscreen industry of ignoring the dangers of its products.

Others mused that they were facing a situation similar to the early days of climate change awareness, in which scientists risk being too passive, cautious of advocating action on a growing problem until there is broad evidence.

Scientists agree that the major culprit in coral degradation is climate change. C. Mark Eakin, an oceanographer and the coordinator for NOAA's Coral Reef Watch program, described sunscreen damage to corals as death by a thousand cuts. "Climate change," he added, "has been like a nuclear blast."

"If we don't deal with climate change," he said by email, "it won't matter what we do about sunscreens."

Some scientists say it's too early to know how damaging sunscreen is to corals because the studies are limited. About half a dozen studies examine the effects of oxybenzone on corals, and some researchers have questioned the methods behind the studies.

But other scientists — often those favoring a ban — say those studies are a small part of a growing body of research that documents the negative impact of oxybenzone and octinoxate on corals and other species with an endocrine system, including humans and animals.

Meanwhile, some dermatologists and sunscreen makers oppose the bans, saying they will lead to fewer people protecting themselves from sun exposure and increase the risk of skin cancer.

To be sure, prohibiting certain sunscreens is a small action in the larger fight against global warming, but local officials are calling it a start.

"If it's something we can do to minimize damage to reefs," said Key West Mayor Teri Johnston, "it's one small step we're going to take."

As in Hawaii, sales of sunscreen with oxybenzone and octinoxate will be prohibited in Key West starting in 2021.

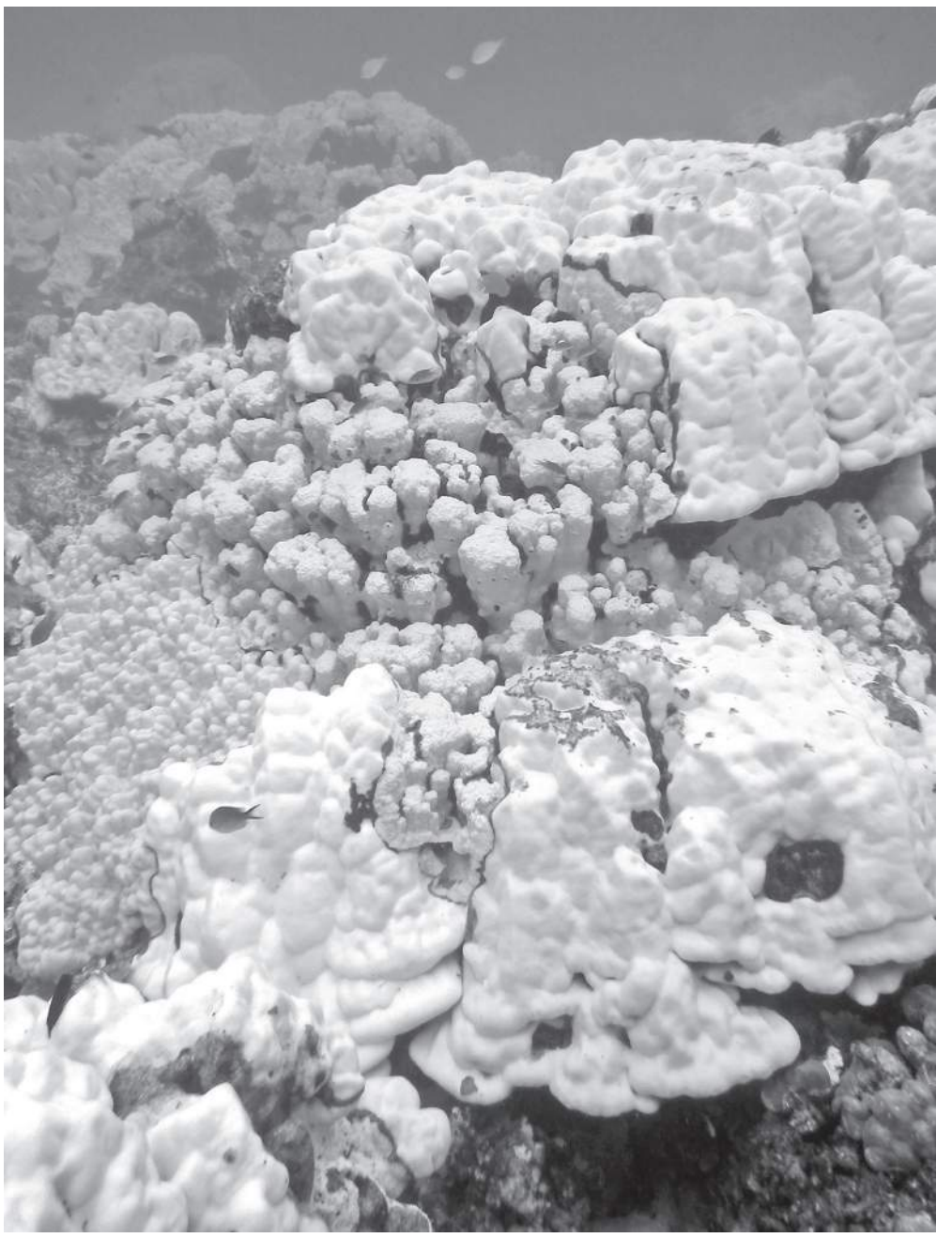
Those laws were spurred in part by a 2015 study from Craig Downs, a forensic ecotoxicologist and the executive director of the Virginia-based nonprofit Haereticus Environmental Laboratory, which researches how to conserve and restore habitat.

His study, published in the Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology, was one of the first to find oxybezone can harm corals.

Downs told Stateline oxybenzone is an "ecologically threatening chemical" that, when compounded by other local problems like sewage pollution and erosion of dirt into the ocean, can damage corals beyond repair, ending a cycle in which corals are able to bounce back from a bleaching event over the course of five to 10 years.

Supporters of Hawaii's ban cited a 2017 letter to legislators from Cheryl Woodley, a NOAA coral scientist, that said existing research was enough to spark action.

"While additional research may incrementally add to our understanding of its impacts to additional coral reef species," the letter said, "additional research on the impacts of oxybenzone should not be a prerequisite to management action."



TNS

This photo, taken in Thailand in the summer of 2010, is one of many parts of the world where scientists found coral bleaching in 2010, then the warmest year on record. Bleaching weakens corals and in some cases kills them.

Many Key West residents supported the ban — people wearing coral-colored shirts that read "oxybenzone free" filled city hall during debate on the measure.

Nicole Crane, a coral reef biologist and professor at Cabrillo College in California, said corals are dying off due to multiple stressors — warming ocean temperatures, pollution and chemicals. Still, she joined the Coral-List conversation in recent weeks to support banning sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate.

"There are so many things about coral reefs that are a problem, and not many of them are easily tackled, whereas the sunscreen is easily tackled," Crane told Stateline. "I think we should be grabbing at anything we can in getting the public involved in trying to protect these habitats."

Douglas Fenner, a coral scientist in American Samoa and a consultant for Conservation International and NOAA, said he's normally sympathetic to the idea of taking a precautionary approach to chemicals and conservation efforts, but in an email to the Coral-List he called banning oxybenzone and octinoxate a "feel good" exercise and a waste of time.

A number of studies show the chemicals can be dangerous, Fenner told Stateline, but they are still very low on the list of threats to corals, while skin cancer remains a high risk to human health. Melanoma rates in the United States have nearly doubled since 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some dermatologists and sunscreen companies likewise say they're concerned about skin cancer rates if people switch to a sunscreen that doesn't offer as broad a protection, or even skip sunscreen entirely.

Kurt Reynertson, a biologist with Johnson & Johnson, which produces many skin care products using oxybenzone and octinoxate, said audience members hissed at him when he testified against the ban in Key West.

Reynertson heads the company's product stewardship division, analyzing how certain chemicals impact human and environmental health. Normally the job involves telling the company not to use certain chemicals, he said, but he doesn't think there is enough data to support banning oxybenzone and octinoxate.

"What I know is that climate change is killing [corals], and that I don't have enough evidence to ban oxybenzone," he said. "Taking something out of the arsenal of what you could truly call a life-saving drug is a big decision. You don't base global public health decisions on a couple studies."

The Skin Cancer Foundation, an education and research nonprofit supported in part by skin-care and cosmetics companies, said in a statement last year that the Hawaii ban was "cause for concern."

"By removing access to a significant number of products, this ban will give people another excuse to skip sun protection, putting them at greater risk for skin cancer," the foundation said in its statement. The American Academy of Dermatology declined to take a position on the sunscreen bans.

The bans in Hawaii and Key West don't stop visitors from bringing any sunscreen they choose, but locals will need a prescription before buying those with oxybenzone or octinoxate. Otherwise, shoppers will be limited to mineral sunscreens that rely on components like zinc oxide to block the sun or a smaller selection of sunscreens without the offending chemicals.

Reynertson said the public often perceives mineral sunscreens, which Johnson & Johnson also makes, as being better for the environment, but he's concerned that if they become widely used, the high dosage of substances may be just as damaging to corals.

But Downs said the mineral particles are too big to be absorbed by wildlife.

Sunscreen manufacturers and some environmentalists have been lobbying the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to expand its list of approved ingredients for sunscreen, which hasn't been modified since the late 1990s.

They point to Europe, which has a longer list, hopeful that a diversity of ingredients would help reduce the impact of any one substance. The Skin Care Foundation supports expanding the list.

The FDA recently announced it would ask sunscreen makers to turn over more data about the active ingredients in their products, including oxybenzone and octinoxate.

California Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, a Democrat who sponsored legislation to ban sales in her state, said sunscreen producers have told her they could create less toxic products. "But with what they have approved now," she said, "they don't have an alternative that works as well that's not toxic."

Life & Style

Now 30, 'The Little Mermaid' paved the way for Elsa and Anna

By MARK KENNEDY
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—It's not uncommon for people to just look at Jodi Benson and burst into tears.

Sometimes they hyperventilate or scream. But mostly they break down and start sobbing. Benson will hold them, heaving in her arms, and pat their back gently.

Benson isn't a household name but for many she's an intimate part of their childhood. She supplied the singing and speaking voice of Ariel, the heroine of the 1989 animated Disney hit "The Little Mermaid," which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year.

Benson says she will sometimes watch as the stunned movie's fans virtually go back in time in front of her. "It triggers a memory for them," she says.

This image released by Disney shows Ariel, voiced by Jodi Benson, in a scenefrom "The Little Mermaid. The film, celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, also had a big role in making Disney into an animation juggernaut. AP

"They remember who they were with when they saw the movie the first time. Maybe that sibling is no longer with them, that grandparent is no longer with them. It reminds them of a relationship that had been broken with a parent. So they have all sorts of emotions that go on."

"The Little Mermaid " has changed a lot of lives, not least of which is Benson's, who has continued to perform Ariel virtually every weekend in concerts as well as on film in the "Wreck-It Ralph" franchise.

"The Little Mermaid" also had a big role in making Disney into an animation juggernaut and reviving the art form. Many believe we'd never have Anna and Elsa from "Frozen" without first having Ariel.

"Disney was starting to get into a groove that would continue, but I feel like a lot of that started with 'A Little Mermaid,'" says Ron Clements, who co-wrote and co-directed the film.

Benson was a rising Broadway star when Ariel came into her orbit. She had been in a short-lived musical "Smile" when Howard Ashman, the musical's lyricist and story writer, invited the out-of-work cast to audition for his next project, an adaptation of Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid."

Producers wanted the singing and speaking voice to be supplied by the same actress. So Benson, a lyric soprano, sang the signature "Part of Your World" on a reel-to-reel tape and was handed a few of pages of dialogue.

"I ran into the ladies' room," she recalls "and waited for everybody to get out of the stalls and started talking to the mirror, sort of trying to come up with what would she sound like at 16."

Benson, it turned out, was a master mimic. She had spent countless hours in her room as a child with her guitar, singing along to records by Barbra Streisand, Carole King, James Taylor as well as Marvin Hamlisch's "A Chorus Line."

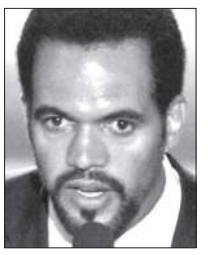
"I would start to just sing like them. But it wasn't like I was trying to be them. It's just that's what I heard. And so that's just what you do. You just sound like what you been listening to," she says.

Coroner says 'Young and Restless' star died of heart disease

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Young and the Restless" star Kristoff St. John died of heart disease, with excessive drinking at the time of his death a contributing factor, according to a coroner's report released Tuesday.

Investigators listed "hypertrophic heart disease" as the cause of the 52-year-old's death on Feb. 4 at his home in Los Angeles. "Hypertrophic" means the heart muscle has become abnormally thick, making blood-pumping difficult.

Heavy alcohol use along with a congenital artery problem contributed to St. John's death, the report said.



St. John

Three days earlier, St. John had been released from a mental health hospital where he had been admitted for alcohol abuse and threatening self-harm, according to the report. It also listed a history of mental-health and alcohol problems.

He last spoke to someone about 24 hours before paramedics declared him dead in his apartment on a Sunday morning, the report states.

For 27 years, St. John played struggling alcoholic and ladies' man Neil Winters on the CBS soap opera, "The Young and the Restless."

He was nominated for 11 daytime Emmys, winning twice, for outstanding younger actor in a drama series, in 1992 and supporting actor in 2008.

He died four years after the death of his 24-year-old son, and St. John had spoken on social media about his struggles with grief.

He had become engaged to model Kseniya Mikhaleva in September.

St. John's last episode of "The Young and the Restless" aired in the week following his death. A story line that pays tribute to both Kristoff and his character is set to start in late April.

Goodbye console? Google launches game-streaming platform

By MAE ANDERSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Google on Tuesday unveiled a video-game streaming platform called Stadia, positioning itself to take on the traditional video-game business.

The platform will store a game-playing session in the cloud and lets players jump across devices operating on Google's Chrome browser and Chrome OS, such as Pixel phones and Chromebooks.

Google didn't say how much its new service will cost, whether it will offer subscriptions or other options, or what games will be available at launch —all key elements to the success of a new video-game platform. It said only that Stadia will be available in late 2019.

Google made the announcement at the Game Developers Conference in San Francisco. Some industry watchers were expecting a streaming console, but Google's platform centers squarely on the company's cloud infrastructure.

"The new generation of gaming is not a box," said Google Vice President Phil Harrison. "The data center is your platform."

Much like movies and music, the traditional video-game industry has been shifting from physical hardware and games to digital downloads and streaming. Video-game streaming typically requires a strong connection and more computing power than simply streaming video, since there is real-time interaction between player and game. Google says it is leveraging its data centers to power the system.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google said playing video games will be as simple as pressing a "Play Now" button, with nothing to download or install. An optional dedicated Stadia controller will be available. The WiFi-enabled controller has a button that lets players launch a microphone and use Google Assistant to ask questions about the games being played. Another button lets users share gameplay directly to Google's video streaming service, YouTube.

Harrison said he expects all gaming will eventually take place outside consoles, in cloud-powered streaming platforms similar to what Google announced. But not right away.

"It won't replace traditional games devices overnight," he said in an interview after the announcement. "And we wouldn't be here if not for the existing traditional platforms."

CFRA Research analyst Scott Kessler said Google's approach that ties YouTube sharing and video-game playing is unique.

"It is not necessarily at this point the easiest thing for people to livestream their games and now you can do it with the push of a button," he said. "What they've done with Stadia is to connect and unify both the gaming platform and the streaming platform which obviously is new."

The company said Stadia will be available in late 2019 in the U.S., Canada, the U.K. and parts of Europe. Google showed demos of "Assassin's Creed Odyssey" and "Doom Eternal." More information about games and pricing is due this summer.

The U.S. video game industry raked in revenue of $43.4 billion in 2018, up 18 percent from 2017, according to research firm NPD Group.

BTIG Managing Director Brandon Ross said Stadia will be a positive for game publishers "assuming that it works and works at scale, which is a big assumption."

In end of 20th Century Fox, a new era dawns for Hollywood

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The Fox Studio backlot, first built in 1926 on a Century City ranch in Los Angeles, was enormous. Before much of it was sold off in the 1960s, it was four times the size of its current, and still huge, 53 acres.

Shirley Temple's bungalow still sits on the lot, as does the piano where John Williams composed, among other things, the score to "Star Wars." A waiter in the commissary might tell you where Marilyn Monroe once regularly sat.

When the Walt Disney Co.'s $71.3 billion acquisition of Fox is completed at 12:02 a.m. Wednesday, the storied lot—the birthplace of CinemaScope, "The Sound of Music" and "Titanic"—will no longer house one of the six major studios. It will become the headquarters for Rupert Murdoch's new Fox Corp., (he is keeping Fox News and Fox Broadcasting) and Fox's film operations, now a Disney label, will stay on for now as renters under a seven-year lease agreement.

The history of Hollywood is littered with changes of studio ownership; even Fox Film Corporation founder William Fox, amid the Depression, lost control of the studio that still bears his name. But the demise of 20th Century Fox as a standalone studio is an epochal event in Hollywood, one that casts long shadows over a movie industry grappling with new digital competitors from Silicon Valley and facing the possibility of further contraction. After more than eight decades of supremacy, the Big Six are down one.

"It's a sad day for students of film history and I think it's potentially a sad day for audiences too," said Tom Rothman, former chairman of Fox and the current chief of Sony Pictures. "There will just be less diversity in the marketplace."

Disney's acquisition has endless repercussions but it's predicated largely on positioning Disney—already the market-leader in Hollywood—for the future. Disney, girding for battle with Netflix, Apple and Amazon, needs more content for its coming streaming platform, Disney+, and it wants control of its content across platforms.

"The pace of disruption has only hastened," Disney chief Robert A. Iger said when the deal was first announced. "This will allow us to greatly accelerate our director-to-consumer strategy."

The Magic Kingdom will add 20th Century Fox alongside labels like Marvel, Pixar and Lucasfilm. But film production at Fox, which has in recent years released 12-17 films a year, is expected to wane. Due to duplication with Disney staff, layoffs will be in the thousands.

Jordan Peele dares everyone to look at the horrors of 'Us'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jordan Peele's sweet spot as a filmmaker are the "pit in your stomach" moments. That thing that happens when you realize the woman stirring the tea isn't just there for conversation. When you notice that the help is a little off. Or, as in his new film "Us," when you see that the family of four standing in your driveway late at night looks exactly like you.

Peele knows how to get under your skin and stay there, and it's what made him the must-see horror filmmaker of the moment. "Us," out nationwide Friday, is only his second and yet it's been an event-in-the-making ever since it was announced. That's what happens when your debut is "Get Out."

"Get Out" wasn't even finished when the former sketch-comedian started cooking up the idea for his follow-up about doppelgangers, loosely inspired by the "Twilight Zone" episode "Mirror Image." Then the wild success of "Get Out"—four Oscars nominations, one win (Peele for original screenplay), over $255 million in tickets sold against a $4.5 million budget, and general cultural impact—put Peele on another level. So by the time Universal Pictures agreed to make "Us," not only did he have a budget over five times higher than his first, but he had his pick of collaborators too.

Peele

"Because of 'Get Out' I was privileged enough to be able to tap the best talent in the industry," Peele said recently.

That goes for stars Lupita Nyong'o and Winston Duke, who play dual roles as the nuclear American family, the Wilsons, and the terrifying red jumpsuit-wearing and gold scissor-wielding Red and Abraham, as well as the below-the-line talent: Production designer Ruth De Jong ("Twin Peaks"); cinematographer Mike Gioulakis ("It Follows"); and costume designer Kym Barrett ("The Matrix") among them.

"I had an amazing team on 'Get Out,'" Peele said. "But this group sort of allowed me to stretch a little bit more."

Duke was impressed by his calm. He knew there were "sophomore pressures"—he had his own set following his breakout role in "Black Panther"—but said Peele never brought any of that to set.

"Day one, (Peele) said, 'Before we do anything I just want to let you guys know that I'm here for you. I won't stop until we get the shot. When I say cut, we got the shot. So trust me, believe in me,'" Duke said. "And I was like, that's all I need."

Duke and Nyong'o already had a short hand working together. Yes, they had just both been in "Black Panther," but they were also Yale Drama School graduates and have seen one another do everything from clown work to Chekov.

"It was great to be able to perform with someone who I value as much more than a friend—I value her as a cohort. I value her as an ally. I went to work every day trying to make sure we could create a space where she could excel. I thought that was my duty," Duke said. "We had a female lead and in our climate in Hollywood we were doing the work and leading by example."

And Peele put them both through the wringer. The days on set as the Wilsons were full of laughter and fun. But the days as the murderous doppelgangers known as The Tethered, Peele said, felt like "a morgue."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Unusual 'Bachelor' finale pays off for ABC in ratings race

NEW YORK (AP)—An unusual ending to ABC's long-running attempted love matches on "The Bachelor" paid off for the network. Both parts of the finale to the 23rd edition of the series hit the Nielsen company's top 10 last week, as bachelor Colton Underwood—who started his reign as a virgin—revealed he was dating contestant Cassie Randolph. That wasn't initially the plan, since Underwood jumped a fence to abandon the two women who had been finalists to chase Randolph, who had left the show. The show's performance led ABC to its fourth weekly win in a row among viewers aged 18-to-49, the demographic its advertisers chase. That's ABC's longest streak among this group in nearly four years.

Wendy Williams reveals she is living in 'sober house'

NEW YORK (AP)—Wendy Williams says she's living in a "sober house" because of addiction struggles. The 54-year-old talk show host tearfully revealed the information Tuesday to the audience at "The Wendy Williams Show." She says the only other people who knew about where she was living up until her announcement Tuesday were her husband and son. Williams says she works out after her show and then is driven by her "24-hour sober coach" to a home where she lives "with a bunch of smelly boys who have become my family." She says she has been addicted to cocaine in the past and never sought treatment. Williams returned to her talk show earlier this month for the first time since December, saying she was off because of continued thyroid issues associated with Graves' disease.

Dartmouth professor wins top religion prize

HANOVER, N.H. (AP)—A Dartmouth College professor of physics and astronomy was awarded one of the world's leading religion prizes for blending hard science and deep spirituality in his work, a foundation announced Tuesday. The John Templeton Foundation is awarding its 2019 prize to Marcelo Gleiser, who has written books on topics ranging from the origin of the universe to how science engages with spirituality. The Templeton Prize comes with a $1.4 million award. Gleiser, a 60-year-old Brazilian native, is the 49th recipient and the first from Latin America to get the award, which honors a living person who has made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension. Previous winners include Mother Teresa, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and King Abdullah II of Jordan. The award will be presented at a ceremony in New York City on May 29.

Colbert postpones visit to New Zealand after attack

NEW YORK (AP)—Talk show host Stephen Colbert has postponed what was supposed to be a surprise visit to New Zealand following the terrorist attack in Christchurch that killed 50 people. Colbert's "Late Show," the top-rated American late-night show, said that he was supposed to travel to New Zealand on Wednesday for a week of shows. He was invited last fall when New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was a guest on "Late Show." Colbert, on his show Monday night, said he was heartbroken at what the country is going through and prays that residents have the courage that Americans seem to lack to take action against violence. He said he hopes to reschedule the visit.

Jerry Lee Lewis cancels shows, is recovering from stroke

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Rock 'n' roll pioneer Jerry Lee Lewis has been transferred from a hospital to a rehabilitation center following a stroke last month, but will have to cancel upcoming shows, including his appearance at the New Orleans Jazz Festival. According to a statement from his neurologist released Monday, the 83-year-old Lewis is expected to fully recover with aggressive and intensive rehab. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer also announced he is cancelling his April 28 appearance at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, a May 18 concert in Knoxville, Tennessee, and a June 8 concert in Alexandria, Virginia. Nicknamed "The Killer," Lewis is known for his outrageous energy and piano skills on songs like "Great Balls of Fire" and "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On."

James Corden returns to host the 2019 Tony Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—James Corden is returning to host the 73rd annual Tony Awards. The American Theatre Wing on Tuesday announced that the host of CBS' "The Late Late Show" will preside over Broadway's biggest night which honors the season's best plays and musicals. Corden previously hosted the 70th annual Tonys. Corden won a Tony for best performance by a leading actor in a play for his 2012 performance in "One Man. Two Guvnors." The 40-year-old says he's "thrilled" to be returning and the "Broadway community is very dear" to his heart. Nominations for the 2019 Tony Awards will be announced April 30. The awards will be presented June 9 at Radio City Music Hall in New York City, airing on CBS.

Friend sees too much risk in monitoring home remodel

DEAR ABBY: For several years, my husband and I were good friends with "Pam" and "David." About a year ago, we moved to a new house just a few blocks from theirs. They decided they liked some of the features of our new home and immediately started remodeling theirs to resemble ours.

Pam and David both work and I am retired, so Dave asked if I would go to their home throughout the day, while several workmen did this extensive remodel. I refused, saying I wasn't comfortable alone in someone else's house with a bunch of strangers milling about, not to mention the responsibility if something was broken or stolen. (The company wasn't bonded. They are just random guys doing side jobs.)

Long story short, David was extremely offended that I declined and no longer speaks to us. He has shunned other friends for lesser things since then. I'm still friendly with Pam, but I can't help feeling that deep down she resents me, too, and thinks I should have done it because we are good friends.

Was I wrong to refuse, Abby? Should I have done it to keep the friendship, even though I wasn't comfortable?

RESENTFUL IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR RESENTFUL: I not only don't think you were wrong, I think you made a wise decision, and for the right reason. If anything had gone wrong with the remodel or one of the laborers was less than honest, the blame would have fallen squarely on you. Add to that the fact that Dave drops people he feels let him down for any reason, and you have a recipe for disaster.

If Pam resents you for protecting yourself, she may not be as good a friend as you assume she is. True friends should be able to say no when it's warranted, and true friends accept a refusal with good grace.

DEAR ABBY: Is it possible to "choose" to forgive someone? My 20-year-old nephew recently turned his life around. He has a good job, a nice girlfriend and a baby on the way. But when he and my sister were living with my late mother a few years ago, he trashed Mom's basement (where he was living), and it cost her hundreds of dollars to repair the damage. He also stole money from her and once threatened my life. He smoked and drank as a teen, quit school, and did nothing more than play video games.

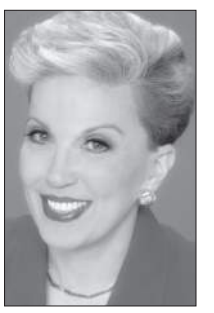
I'm glad he has changed his ways, but he has never apologized for the way he treated us. It seems I'm expected by everyone to forgive and forget, but I can't. Please don't suggest counseling. He wouldn't go.

I don't want to be estranged from his girlfriend and my great-nephew, but I have no interest in engaging with him unless he makes amends for his past behavior. My sister always seemed oblivious to his bad behavior. In her eyes, her son can do no wrong. Is there any way to reconcile his particular past with the present?

STILL ANGRY IN MINNESOTA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR STILL ANGRY: Yes, it is possible to choose to forgive. But it doesn't appear that your nephew has completely turned his life around. Part of growing up is becoming a responsible individual. Making amends for past misdeeds is a part of that process your nephew seems to have skipped.

If you would like to have a relationship with his girlfriend and their child, nothing prevents it. But it doesn't mean you must have amnesia about the way you and your mother were treated by your nephew. Talk to him about this so you can get the closure you are seeking.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

WHAT ARE YOU SO MAD ABOUT ANYWAY? COULDN'T YOU FIND ALL THE BUGS YOU NEEDED FOR YOUR INSECT COLLECTION?
HUH?
HEY, WHERE IS YOUR INSECT COLLECTION?? IT'S DUE TODAY.
I FORGOT MY INSECT COLLECTION! OH, NO!!
QUICK! GO HOME AND GET IT! MAYBE YOU CAN MAKE IT BACK BEFORE THE SCHOOL BUS COMES! HURRY! RUN!
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT. HELP ME FIND SOME ANTS.
YOU FORGOT IT ENTIRELY?!?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

2:42
IT'S NOT UNDER THE CUSHIONS.
SON, I NEED THAT PHONE!
2:38
IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR MY CLIENT CALL! WRACK YOUR BRAINS!
2:31
I'M WRACKING AS HARD AS I CAN! I... I DON'T...
2:15
OH! I GOT GUMBO A TREAT!
MILKBONE OR RAWHIDE?? THINK, MAN. THINK!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Karate level
5 Caprice
9 Perch
12 Writer Wiesel
13 Car
14 Man-mouse link
15 Time between vernal equinoxes
17 "Viva — Vegas"
18 Wesley of "Blade"
19 Striped critter
21 Symbol of strength
22 Chirp
24 Right on the map?
27 — chi
28 Evening, in an ad
31 Duo
32 Grass shack
33 Feedbag tidbit
34 Big name in scat
36 Boom times
37 "Mad Money" network
38 Beetle Bailey's boss
40 Italian river
41 "Untrue!"
43 "Jurassic Park" bird
47 Paris pal
48 Game for one
51 Pouch
52 Daring Knievel
53 Village People hit
54 Exist
55 Fill fully
56 Fashion line?

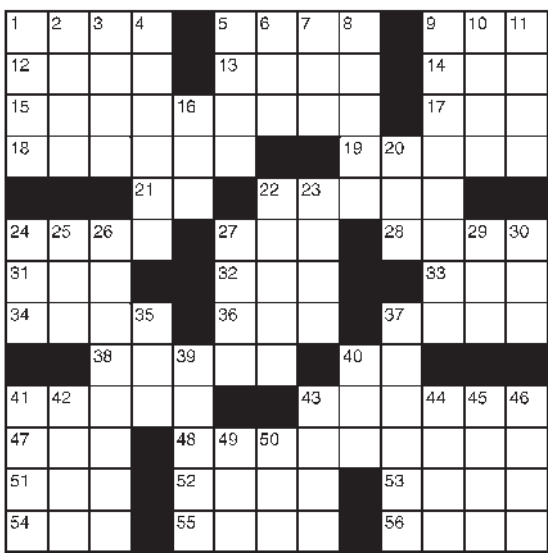
DOWN

1 Porgy's love
2 Carolina college
3 Actress Taylor
4 Oolong brewer
5 Methods
6 Shade
7 Call — day
8 Code name?
9 Puzzle answer
10 Persia, today
11 To-do list item
16 "Toy Story" dinosaur
20 Understanding
22 Hosiery shade
23 Funny folks
24 Paris summer
25 Piercing tool
26 Start of summer or winter
27 Hoodlum
29 Bar bill
30 List-ending abbr.
35 Small batteries
37 Patients' shares
39 Kentucky Derby prize
40 Bit of butter
41 Houston acronym
42 Actor Epps
43 Anger
44 Marathoner's stat
45 Killer whale
46 500 sheets
49 Eggs
50 Allow

Solution time: 24 mins.

D	A	T	A		S	S	T		E	N	C	S
A	M	O	R		E	R	A		N	A	N	A
Y	O	U	G	O	T	I	T		D	I	M	S
S	I	T	O	U	T		A	P	P	L	E	S
			T	R	E		R	U	L	E		
=	V	A		S	F	W		B	A	F	F	R
L	O	S	T		S	A	C		Y	I	P	S
F	_	I	R	T		G	A	B		T	A	T
		S	U	D	S		T	R	U			
O	U	E	S	S	A		N	A	I	I	V	E
D	O	E	S		W	H	A	T	I	S	I	T
O	D	I	E		E	M	P		L	A	N	A
R	O	T	S		D	O	S		E	K	E	S

Yesterday's answer 3-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jace Norman, 19; Matthew Broderick, 57; Rosie O'Donnell, 57; Gary Oldman, 61.

Happy Birthday: Learn through experience, and concentrate on making physical and financial improvements that lead to personal freedom. Consider your options and whether you should invest more time in the people and projects that monopolize your time. This is a year of transformation. Re-evaluate the past, and make the necessary adjustments that are conducive to discovering what makes you happy. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 23, 31, 35, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen carefully and consider all sides of a situation before you let your emotions take over. If you act without having all the facts, you will find it difficult to backtrack. Offer kindness and consideration to others to keep the peace. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Make the most of your time, and put your energy into getting things done. What you accomplish today will set the stage for an overdue change. Don't deny yourself the opportunity to create and manufacture what you want to see unfold. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Take it easy. Spend time with someone you enjoy being around. Distance yourself from those who tend to get you into trouble or make you angry. Make decisions that will help keep the peace instead of promoting chaos and dissension. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* An idea you have may sound outlandish, but toned down it can turn into something extraordinary. Don't give up on a dream because someone ridicules you. Adjust to the current economic climate, and follow through with your plans. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Learn from experience. Plan your actions instead of winging it and hoping things turn out OK. Less risk and more research will make a difference to the way things unfold. Live life to win, not to scramble your way through. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Participate to learn a lot about life. The people you encounter will offer interesting opinions that make you realize what you can do to improve your life. Let go of emotional situations that hold you back. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Set down some guidelines, and refuse to let anyone bully you or make you feel inferior. If you love who you are, your attributes will shine. It's time to make personal changes that motivate you to live life your way. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't lose sight of what's going on in your personal life because you are too busy with work. Balance will be required if you want the best of both worlds. Include someone you love in your plans. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Alter what isn't working for you. Distance yourself from people you can't trust or those who are indulgent or who exaggerate. Truth will matter when it comes to your personal and professional goals. Choose love over friction. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make a move. Whether it's from one location to another or an attitude change, the difference will encourage you to take control of your life and to do the things you enjoy more and those you don't less. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Helping others is honorable, but don't let anyone take advantage of you or take on something that could end up leading to injury or an argument. Offer suggestions, not physical or financial help. Put your money in a safe place. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take one step at a time. If you rush, it will cause delays and stress. Plan your actions, and stick to what works best for you. Don't promise more than you can deliver to impress someone. Let your actions speak for you. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are appealing, outgoing and progressive. You are challenging and driven.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3		5		2			
6				9		3		
		7		1				
3						2	8	
		6		4		5		
1	5							6
				2		9		
	4		9					5
			3		6		7	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

8	6	4	7	2	3	5	1	9
2	5	1	6	9	8	4	3	7
7	3	9	4	1	5	8	2	6
9	1	8	2	5	4	7	6	3
6	4	2	9	3	7	1	5	8
5	7	3	1	8	6	2	9	4
3	2	5	8	4	9	6	7	1
4	9	6	5	7	1	3	8	2
1	8	7	3	6	2	9	4	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S INDUBITABLE Solution: 7 letters

L	N	C	W	A	S	S	U	R	E	L	T	T	E	S
E	Y	O	A	E	C	N	I	V	N	O	C	C	F	G
P	F	N	T	D	E	F	I	N	I	T	E	E	F	N
M	S	F	S	N	T	S	U	R	T	N	L	R	E	I
O	I	I	O	A	U	T	E	S	O	I	B	R	C	L
C	T	D	N	L	G	V	C	W	D	A	A	O	T	L
E	A	E	C	D	I	E	R	E	O	L	I	C	I	E
A	S	N	T	T	E	N	N	E	R	P	N	K	V	T
C	O	T	I	U	I	E	O	T	A	I	E	I	E	T
C	P	S	A	A	L	D	D	R	L	L	D	N	V	N
E	O	R	T	B	E	O	A	U	Y	E	N	D	L	E
P	B	R	O	X	L	E	S	D	I	C	U	L	O	D
T	E	T	I	V	L	I	O	B	V	I	O	U	S	I
C	I	F	I	C	E	P	S	T	A	B	L	E	E	V
G	N	I	R	R	E	N	U	H	S	E	C	U	R	E

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Absolute, Accept, Assure, Certain, Clear, Compel, Conclusive, Confident, Convince, Correct, Definite, Direct, DNA, Effective, Establish, Evident, Fixed, Gentle, Indeed, Kind, Likely, Lucid, Obvious, Open, Plain, Positive, Proven, Real, Resolve, Satisfy, Secure, Settle, Specific, Stable, Sweet, Telling, Trust, Undeniable, Unerring, Watson

Yesterday's Answer: Ultrasound

The NEW Volume 55 can be purchased online at: www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859 • Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Petitioner Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0252
ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.	NOTICE OF HEARING Date: April 4, 2019 Time: 9:00 am Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho

TO ANNIE R. TOKYO AND MELINDA T. HOSSAIN, ALL HEIRS, AND INTERESTED PARTIES: NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Administratrix Daisy Ramirez has filed an Order Setting Status Conference in the above-titled matter. The hearing on the Status Conference is scheduled to be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 6th day of February, 2019.

/s/ Clerk of Court / Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

As of March 01, 2019, Ketson Jack Kabiriel is no longer employed by Safety 1st Systems CNMI. He no longer conducts business or is permitted to represent Safety 1st Systems CNMI in any matters associated with sales or financial matters for the company. Should there be any further clarification required, please contact Safety 1st Systems CNMI at 670-235-6500.

Owners for Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc.

JVA for YANO Enterprises, Inc.
Dba: Kinpachi Japanese Restaurant
Kinpachi BBQ Garden Restaurant

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Must be responsible for the supervision of staff as to dining areas cleanliness in appearance & outside grounds. Ensure any customers issues are addressed immediately and resolved in a manner which exceeds the customer's expectation. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Cook (3): Must be experienced & skilled in preparing Japanese cuisine including but not limited to sushi, sashimi, & tempura. Can prepare all menu items according to quantity menus, must know cutting and preparation techniques for each type of fish used in sushi rolls as well as how to prepare rice, sauces and seasonal ingredients, must ensure that ingredients are fresh, colorful and always in stock, that the all-important knives are sharp and clean, and that all equipment is in working order. Must be able to maintain kitchen & observe safety & sanitary food handling practices as well as other related duties.

Additional Requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain required food handler health certificate, must be able to provide current police clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to drug test. Can work in flexible hours including holidays, weekends and night time schedules.

Applicants of all positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 2 - 4 year experience.

Application by phone call will not be accepted.
We are an equal opportunity employer. Qualified applicants will be considered.
Interested applicants must apply in person; applications can be picked up at MISA Building Kinpachi Restaurant in Coral Tree Avenue, Garapan.

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Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2019

Opening date: March 04, 2019 Closing date: March 22, 2019

Positions:
(5) ARFF Trainee (Saipan)
(1) Equipment Operator-I (Saipan)
(1) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(3) Ports Police Officer-I (Saipan)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF Trainee (Rota)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport***. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10 year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the West Tinian International Airport or Benjamin T. Manglona Rota International Airport is no later than **5:00 pm on Friday, March 22, 2019**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions shall be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., except on holidays, at the CPA's Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp or hrspecialist@cpa.gov.mp by phone at (670) 237-6500.

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CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

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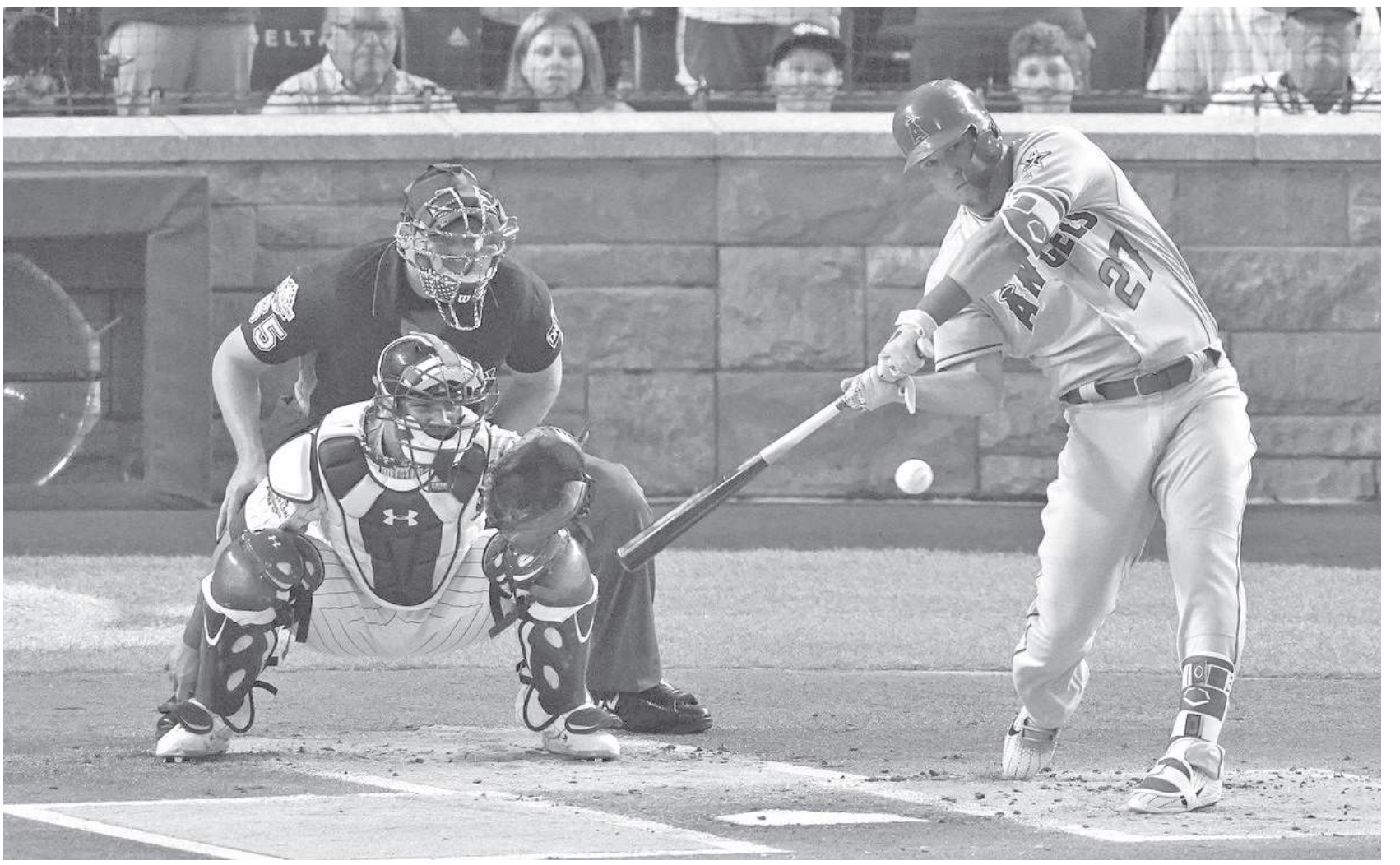
Trout, Angels close to record $432M, 12-year deal



Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout bats in the first inning during the 89th MLB baseball All-Star Game, Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at Nationals Park, in Washington. AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Mike Trout is on the verge of becoming baseball's first half-billion dollar man.

Trout and the Los Angeles Angels are close to finalizing a $432 million, 12-year contract that would shatter the record for the largest deal in North American sports history, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The deal was disclosed Tuesday by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been finalized. The contract was likely to be announced by the end of this week, the person said.

Trout would set a baseball record for career earnings at about $513 million, surpassing the roughly $448 million Alex Rodriguez took in with Seattle, Texas and the New York Yankees from 1994-2017

"I'm pretty sure I ain't paying one more dinner for him," said fellow Angels star Albert Pujols, in the midst of a $240 million, 10-year deal. "It's well deserved. I don't think there's anybody in baseball besides him who deserves that."

Trout's latest deal would top the new $330 million, 12-year contract between Bryce Harper and the Philadelphia Phillies, and Trout's $36 million average annual value would surpass pitcher Zack Greinke's $34.4 million in a six-year deal with Arizona that started in 2016. The contract also would best Mexican boxer Canelo Alvarez's $356 million deal with sports-streaming service DAZN.

Progress toward an agreement was first reported by ESPN.

Whether Trout's contract is the largest in the world for a team athlete is difficult to determine. Forbes estimated Lionel Messi earned $84 million from Barcelona in 2017-18 and Cristiano Ronaldo $61 million from Real Madrid, but precise details of their contracts are not known.

"You think about Angels, you think about Mike Trout," Los Angeles shortstop Andrelton Simmons said, "You locked up the best player in the game. That's a big first step to take. You can build off of that. That's a good base to the house."

Trout's deal would include a signing bonus and supersede the $144.5 million, six-year contract that had been set to pay him $33.25 million in each of the next two seasons.

While the marketplace has been slow for many players this offseason, prompting complaints from the players' association, top stars have gained robust deals. Four of the largest seven contracts will have been agreed to since Feb. 19, with Trout and Harper joined by Manny Machado ($300 million for 10 years with San Diego) and Nolan Arenado ($260 million for eight years with Colorado).

Los Angeles selected Trout with the 25th overall pick in the 2009 amateur draft, and he signed for a bonus of $1,215,000. He made his major league debut on July 8, 2011.

A 27-year-old entering what should be his prime years, Trout is considered baseball's top player and would have been coveted as a free agent after the 2020 season. He lives in southern New Jersey, and Harper said he was excited about trying to recruit Trout to join him in Philadelphia.

Although Trout recently built a home in his native Millville, New Jersey, he is staying on the West Coast with the Angels, who are coming off three straight losing seasons and haven't won a playoff game during his career.

Trout and wife Jessica have made no secret of how much they enjoy living in laid-back Southern California, and the low-key outfielder decided to skip the pressure of free agency entirely.

Trout has been an All-Star in each of his seven full big league seasons and hit .312 with 39 homers, 79 RBIs, 24 steals and 122 walks last year. He led the major leagues in OPS in each of the last two seasons.

Trout has a .307 average with 240 homers, 648 RBIs, 189 steals and 693 walks in eight big league seasons. He was voted AL Rookie of the Year in 2012, won the AL MVP award in 2014 and '16 and finished second in MVP voting four times, tying the record shared by Stan Musial, Ted Williams and Pujols.

Big-money deals have not worked out for the Angels in the past. Pujols reached his big deal with the Angels before the 2012 season but has not matched his previous performance with St. Louis. Josh Hamilton signed a $125 million, five-year contract before the 2013 season and contributed just 31 homers and 123 RBIs in two years with the Angels.

Trout is viewed differently as a home-grown Angels player and forms a core with Japanese star two-way player Shohei Ohtani, who is recovering from Tommy John surgery. Ohtani is expected to be able to hit for the Angels at some time in the first half of the season and to resume pitching in the 2020 season.

Trout has reached the playoffs just once, when the Angels won the AL West in 2014 and were swept by Kansas City. Los Angeles is coming off three straight losing seasons, and Brad Ausmus replaced Mike Scioscia, the team's manager since 2000.

Los Angeles has a lucrative television contract, a fan base that has packed Angel Stadium with 3 million fans for 16 consecutive seasons and an owner in Arte Moreno who rarely hesitates to spend. The Angels' farm system has improved sharply during general manager Billy Eppler's three-year tenure.

Trevor Cahill opening day starter

The last time Trevor Cahill made an opening day start, he was pitching for the Oakland Athletics. Now Los Angeles Angels manager Brad Ausmus has named Cahill as the opening day starter for the March 28 game in Oakland against the A's.

This is Cahill's first season with the Angels. He was 7-4 with a 3.76 ERA in 21 games (20 starts) for the Athletics last year. It will be Cahill's second opening day start — he also did so in 2011 for the Athletics.

"Any time you can pitch the first game of the season, it's special," Cahill said. "I think the biggest thing is, as we all know, it's one of many and not worth any more than any of the other ones. My goal is to go out there and pitch like I normally do and don't try to do too much."

The rest of the Angels' rotation will be Matt Harvey, Felix Pena, Tyler Skaggs and Jaime Barria, Ausmus said.

"We're kind of juggling with injuries and weren't sure and ultimately, I thought Cahill was the best fit," Ausmus said.

Cahill played for the A's from 2009-11 and again last season.

"It'll be weird going back there. I've never played there as a visitor," Cahill said. "I went there one time with the Royals two years ago but I was on the DL. That's the only other time I've been in the visitor's clubhouse. It'll be fun. Day game, too, which is weird. I have to make sure I don't assume it's a night game. I've done that before.

Some of the other Angels have had to deal with minor injuries this spring. Harvey was slowed because of a glute strain while Skaggs has been dealing with left forearm fatigue. Another candidate, Andrew Heaney, was expected to open the season on the injured list because of inflammation in his left elbow. Cahill has been healthy.

"That plays into it somewhat," Ausmus said. "He's made a start there before. It does line up Harvey for opening day in Anaheim."

The Angels' home opener will be April 4 against the Texas Rangers.

Bregman, Astros agree to $100M, 6-year deal

HOUSTON (AP)—Alex Bregman and the Houston Astros have agreed on a $100 million, six-year deal that keeps the All-Star third baseman under contract with the team through 2024, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation.

The agreement includes this season, buys out three years of arbitration eligibility (2020-22) and pushes back Bregman's opportunity to become a free agent by two years. The person spoke Tuesday night on condition of anonymity because details had not been released by the team. The agreement was first reported by KRIV-FOX 26.

The 24-year-old Bregman made his first All-Star team last season and was selected MVP of the game after hitting a home run to help the American League win. He set career highs with a .286 batting average, 31 homers, 103 RBIs and a major league-leading 51 doubles, finishing fifth in AL MVP balloting.

The second overall pick in the 2015 amateur draft out of LSU, Bregman has hit .282 with 58 homers and 208 RBIs in 2½ seasons with the Astros, helping them win consecutive AL West titles and the 2017 World Series.

Bregman was limited early this spring after having arthroscopic surgery on his right elbow in January.

The deal means the Astros have Bregman and star second baseman Jose Altuve locked up through 2024.

The 28-year-old Altuve, who had offseason knee surgery, is a six-time All-Star and the 2017 AL MVP. His $163.5 million, seven-year contract includes annual salaries of $26.2 million from 2020-24.

Bucks top Lakers; Giannis, LeBron sit out

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Billed as a battle of All-Star captains, the Milwaukee Bucks and Los Angeles Lakers instead took the court Tuesday night without their respective franchise players.

Missing Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is nursing an injured ankle, the Bucks repeatedly thwarted rallies by the Lakers, who didn't have the services of LeBron James due to a sore groin, before finally putting away Los Angeles, 115-101.

"We didn't play well with the lead. That's frustrating on a lot of different levels," Milwaukee coach Mike Budenholzer said.

Khris Middleton scored 30 points and had 10 rebounds, Brook Lopez tied a season high with 28 points, and Nikola Mirotic chipped in with 23 for Milwaukee, which improved to an NBA-best 53-18.

Budenholzer credited Lopez's all-around game for leading the Bucks to victory.

"I thought he was phenomenal," Budenholzer said. "Some of his shots were just very timely, then he's finishing in the paint, he's driving it, getting to the free throw line. He did a lot of things offensively."

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had a season-high 35 points for the Lakers, three off his career best.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Rajon Rondo, right, reaches in on Milwaukee Bucks center Brook Lopez as they scramble for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in Milwaukee.

"He's a very skilled shooter. It's a lot of fun when he is having a game like that," Lakers coach Luke Walton said.

Antetokounmpo, a frontrunner for the league MVP award, poured in a career-high 52 points in a 130-125 loss to the Philadelphia 76ers on Sunday, but sprained his right ankle in that game after colliding with Joel Embiid on a drive to the basket late in the third quarter.

James, who had 33 points in a loss to the Knicks on Sunday, didn't play due to a sore left groin, the same injury that caused him to miss a career-high 17 consecutive games earlier this season.

Nets 123, Kings 121

In Sacramento, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson scored the winning layup with 0.8 seconds remaining as the Brooklyn Nets overcame a 25-point, fourth-quarter deficit to post a stunning victory over the Kings.

D'Angelo Russell scored 27 of his career-high 44 points in the fourth quarter as the Nets outscored the Kings 45-18 to improve to 1-3 on a seven-game road trip.

Hollis-Jefferson scored 14 points on 6-of-7 shooting and drove through the lane to convert the winning basket. Jarrett Allen scored 13 points, and Spencer Dinwiddie added 10 for Brooklyn.

Marvin Bagley III scored 28 points, and De'Aaron Fox had 27 points and nine assists for Sacramento. Harrison Barnes scored 17 points, Nemanja Bjelica had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 10 points for the Kings.

Rockets 121, Hawks 105

In Atlanta, Clint Capela posted his sixth straight double-double with 26 points and 11 rebounds, and visiting Houston topped the Hawks to extend its winning streak to three games.

James Harden added 31 points, sinking 11 of 12 from the line, and had 10 assists and eight rebounds. Danuel House Jr. came off the bench to score 19, including six 3-pointers. Chris Paul scored 13 and had 11 assists.

Atlanta got 21 points and 12 assists from Trae Young, plus 20 points and 10 rebounds from John Collins. Taurean Prince added 16 points, and Vince Carter hit five 3-pointers and scored 15.

Warriors 117, Timberwolves 107

In Minneapolis, Stephen Curry scored 22 of his 36 points in the third quarter, and Klay Thompson added 28 points to lead Golden State past Minnesota

Minnesota trailed 59-47 entering the third quarter before going on a 14-2 run, tying the game at 61-all. That's when Curry took over, scoring eight points in a 94-second span as the Warriors wrested control of the game.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 26 points and grabbed 21 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who saw their six-game home win streak end.

76ers 118, Hornets 114

In Charlotte, Ben Simmons scored 28 points, and JJ Redick had 27 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists as Philadelphia earned its fifth straight victory after beating the Hornets.

Tobias Harris hit three free throws in the final 8.2 seconds, and the Hornets missed a chance to tie the game when Jeremy Lamb was off target on a drive in the lane with two seconds remaining.

Jimmy Butler added 23 points for the Sixers, who completed a four-game season sweep of the Hornets. Their five-game winning streak is a season high. Charlotte has lost nine of its past 12.

Clippers 115, Pacers 109

In Los Angeles, Danilo Gallinari scored 24 points, and Montrezl Harrell added 20 as the Clippers improved their playoff prospects with a win over Indiana.

Rookie Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 17 points as the Clippers moved into a tie with the Utah Jazz for seventh place in the Western Conference. The Clippers and Jazz are just 2 1/2 games out of third place in a crowded Western Conference field.

After scoring just two points in the first half, Bojan Bogdanovic finished with 19 as the Pacers lost their third consecutive game, keeping their playoff-clinching celebration on hold. Tyreke Evans also scored 19.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Toronto	50	21	.704	—
x-Philadelphia	46	25	.648	4
Boston	43	28	.606	7
Brooklyn	37	36	.507	14
New York	14	57	.197	36

Central Division

x-Milwaukee	53	18	.746	—
Indiana	44	28	.611	9.5
Detroit	36	34	.514	16.5
Chicago	20	52	.278	33.5
Cleveland	18	53	.254	35

Southeast Division

Miami	34	36	.486	—
Orlando	33	38	.465	1.5
Charlotte	31	39	.443	3
Washington	30	41	.423	4.5
Atlanta	24	48	.333	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific Division

x-Golden State	48	22	.686	—
LA Clippers	42	30	.583	7
Sacramento	34	36	.486	14
LA Lakers	31	40	.437	17.5
Phoenix	17	55	.236	32

Southwest Division

Houston	45	26	.634	—
San Antonio	42	29	.592	3
New Orleans	31	42	.425	15
Memphis	28	42	.400	16.5
Dallas	28	42	.400	16.5

Northwest Division

x-Denver	47	22	.681	—
Portland	43	27	.614	4.5
Oklahoma City	42	29	.592	6
Utah	41	29	.586	6.5
Minnesota	32	39	.451	16

x- clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doc Rivers squashes Lakers talk, to stay with Clippers

Doc Rivers said Tuesday that he plans to remain in Los Angeles for the long-term.

And that means with the Clippers.

The Clippers coach since 2013, Rivers told reporters that he has no intention of pursuing a potential Lakers opening in the offseason and has worked out a long-term deal with owner Steve Ballmer.

"I have a job, and the Lakers have a coach," Rivers said. "Straight and upfront, I'm going to be here until Steve says 'Get out.'"

Lakers head coach Luke Walton is widely expected to be fired in the offseason, leading to speculation that Lakers president of basketball operations Magic Johnson would pursue his friend Rivers as his replacement.

Rivers has compiled an 887-654 record over a 20-season coaching career with the Orlando Magic, Boston Celtics and Clippers. He won an NBA championship with the Celtics in 2008.

Rivers told reporters that he and Ballmer agreed to remove an opt-out clause from his contract early in the season. Tuesday's announcement appeared to be an effort to fend off speculation about jumping to the Lakers.

"Just so we won't talk about this for a while, let me end this right now — Magic Johnson and I are very close friends, as you know, and that's what we are," Rivers said. "Early in this year, we (Ballmer and I) both decided let's end this thing. Take this out and extend and make it a longer deal.

"We've long decided on that. We just have chosen not to say anything about it. I'm here. My job is not done here."

Rivers didn't completely shut the door on speculation, noting that the paperwork on the agreement has not been done.

"We've done that a while ago, we just haven't, all the paperwork and that stuff is still being done,"Rivers said.

In his sixth season with the Clippers, Rivers has coached the team to a 41-30 start that has them in the Western Conference playoff race despite the breakup of the core of Chris Paul, DeAndre Jordan and Blake Griffin the last two seasons.

The Clippers also traded the best player on their roster this season when they dealt Tobias Harris to the Philadelphia 76ers before the trade deadline.

Balas pounds Ayuyus for strong finish

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Balas crushed the Ayuyus, 24-7, in the final game in the regular season of the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

A 4-0 lead after the first inning gave Balas the momentum en route to the lopsided win. Balas took advantage of the Ayuyus pitcher's shaky performance early on, as five batters from the former were given free pass to first that eventually led to easy scoring opportunities.

Balas remained in control to finish the game in five innings and complete the regular season with a 4-1 record for the No. 2 spot in the final team standings. The Ayuyus ended up with a 1-4 mark to rank third.

The No. 2 seed added seven runs in the second inning against the three of the Ayuyus. Apple Tyquiengco delivered three runs in that period, as her homer also drove in Amy Cabrera and Tamisha Sablan. Then in the third inning, Balas made seven runs, too to put the match out of the Ayuyus' reach. Balas capitalized on the Ayuyus' errors to duplicate their second-inning output. For the last two innings, it was still Balas' show, 12-4.

Tyquiengco and Keona Rogopes led Balas with four runs apiece, while Amy Cabrera, Angel Deleon Guerrero, and Jaime Pangelinan had three each.

The Ayuyus and Balas will clash again this Saturday at 12pm in a win-or-go-home match, as they dispute the second finals berth.

Patriots-Angels 34, Niners 5

The first match in the division was also one-sided, as the Patriots-Angels clobbered the Niners in six innings.

The Patriots-Angels scored at a feverish pace, as they recorded seven runs in each of the first five innings and capped off their dominant performance with six runs in the sixth.

The Niners, on the other hand, only managed to score in two innings—two in the second and three in the third.

Cassandra Camacho highlighted the Patriots-Angels' blowout win with a grand slam in the third inning. She brought home Kiana Aldan, Kiana Camacho, and Richelle Ramon. Aldan earlier hit a home run in the second inning, as she, Cassandra Camacho, and Mariko Laniyo finished with five runs each. Ramon, Kiana Camacho, and Kristine Deleon Guerrero added four runs apiece.

The Patriots-Angels wrapped up the regular season at No. 1, as they earned an unbeaten 6-0 record, while the Niners landed at No. 4 with their dismal 0-6 mark.

The highly favored Patriots-Angels will duel the last-ranked Niners in the 10am playoff match this Saturday with the first finals ticket at stake.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

A Balas runner heads home, while the Ayuyus pitcher waits to tag her out during their game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

A Balas batter swings, while the Ayuyus catcher gets her glove ready during their game in the Natibu Sports Association Girls Fast-pitch and Boys Slow-pitch Softball League last Saturday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Packers sack leader Matthews signs with Rams

GREEN BAY—Strolling through the Green Bay Packers locker room late last season, Clay Matthews remarked on the uncertainty that awaited him this spring.

A reporter wanted to know what everyone wanted to know: Where was the veteran linebacker headed? Matthews was set to become a free agent, and with the Packers season already over before its end, it seemed a natural time to ask.

Except Matthews couldn't possibly answer.

"Shoot," he said, sitting down at his locker, "I'd like to know too. I guess the combine is when that will start to be figured out. I don't know. I've never done this before."

Matthews' got his answer Tuesday when he agreed to a deal with the Los Angeles Rams reportedly worth a maximum of $16.75 million over two years. And while there may have been uncertainty late last season, Los Angeles was a pretty easy destination to predict.

The last time Matthews' contract was set to expire, the Packers preempted the open market. They signed their edge rusher, just 26 years old at the time, to five-year, $66 million extension in April of 2013. Months before the final season of his rookie contract started.

Showing no interest in early negotiations this time, the Packers were content to let Matthews test the market. Matthews, who turns 33 years old in May, is coming off the least statistically productive season in his career. He had just 3.5 sacks in 2018 and, at his age, the Packers could afford to be patient.

They did not have to give him any deal that made them financially unsettled.

NMSA

From Page 28

the Pacific Games Council shares our desire to stage the Pacific Mini Games in 2021, and NMSA is grateful for the Council's support. Next week, a delegation from the Council, consisting of vice president Marcus Stephen and PGC executive director Andrew Minogue, will travel to Saipan to meet with the Governor to discuss what can be done to keep the Games of 2021 alive. We remain hopeful that a solution is possible," NMASA said.

"To this end, we are considering a number of measures which will reduce the government's financial obligations and minimize any possible interruption of our efforts to recover from and rebuild after Super Typhoon Yutu. These measures may include scaling down the size of the Games, and looking to other sources of funding where possible," the group added.

NMSA, during its presentation to the PGC's general assembly in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in 2014, with the approval of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, pegged the cost of the Mini Games at $1,160,000. Out of the more than $1-million budget for the event, $650,000 will come from participation fees from the 24 nations, $250,000 from the government, and the remaining $260,000 from the private sector through sponsorships.

"Our bid for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games had the strong support of former governors Benigno R. Fitial and the late Eloy S. Inos. As a result of their efforts, the CNMI was selected in 2014 to host the Games. The Games will bring close to 2,000 athletes, coaches, officials, and fans from 24 countries across the Pacific to the Northern Mariana Islands. NMSA estimates that the Games will provide a boost of $12 to $15 million to our economy. The Games will leave a lasting legacy for our people, in the form of pride in our homeland and what we can accomplish when we put our minds to it," NMSA said. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

MANTAS

From Page 28

free throws, Yang also ignited the Torchbearers' fiery run, scoring 20 of his 26 points in the second half. The Agape 1 captain highlighted his impressive game with a string of 10 points in the third quarter to help his team grab the lead, 62-61. Lee drove for a layup to put the Torchbearers on top and overhauled a 11-point deficit at the break, 32-43.

Agape 1 kept going in the fourth and went on to pour 56 points in the last two periods to complete the come-from-behind victory.

Jonathan Xiong top-scored for Agape 1 with his 27 markers before exiting the game due to a muscle cramp. He had 10 of his 11 free throws in the second quarter, preventing the Mantas from pulling away. Silas Xu and Mark Shao also did their share in the victory after adding 15 and 10 points, respectively.

Ervin Villarin had 22 points to lead the Mantas, while Rafael Ordona logged 15 markers, and Gregory Deleon Guererro and Clarenz Contreras submitted 11 points apiece.

Despite the sorry loss, Saipan Southern kept the No. 2 spot in the team standings with its 10-3 record, but it is now tied with the surging Mount Carmel School 1, while Agape 1 ended its two game skid and now holds a 7-4 card.

MCS 1 notched win No. 10 after thrashed MCS 2, 90-40, at the Koblerville Gymnasium,

Mt. Carmel 1 buried MCS 2 (3-10) in an avalanche of three pointers, as the former recorded 11 treys. Mikel Johnson finished with a game-high 21 markers for MCS 1, while Chioni Dela Cruz chipped in 19 points, 15 were from beyond the arc. Juan Blanco joined in on the 3-point barrage with all of his 12 points coming from the parking lot.

Over at Grace Christian Academy's court in Navy Hill, Kagman High School edged out the Eagles, 45-38.

Dean Blake and Kobe Lifoifoi led the Ayuyus' charge, scoring 9 points apiece. Marcky Masilungan and William Kim countered for the Eagles with 11 and 9 markers, respectively, but their efforts were not enough to ground Kagman.

The Ayuyus remained on top with their 13-1 slate, while GCA stumbled to a 3-10 record.

ACS 1 88—Xiong 27, Yang 26, Xu 15, Shao 10, Wang 6, Chen 2, Yuan 2.

SSHS 85—Villarin 22, Ordona 15, Contreras 11, Deleon Guererro 11, Matalog 8, Laniyo 7, De Guzman 6, Lagmay 5.

Scoring by quarters: 14-20, 32-43, 62-61, 88-85.

EXTENDED

From Page 28

acts together in the last two, 6-3, 7-5, to steal the win from Schorr and Dunlop.

Before their extended title match, both finalists needed only two sets to eliminate their respective semis foes. Arriola and Race posted a 6-1, 6-1 victory over Anthony Gregoire and Serin Chung, who made it to the Final Four after escaping past Helen Kim and Isaac Heo, 4-6, 7-6, 10-7, in the first round match at the top half of the bracket.

At the bottom half, Schorr and Dunlop won their opening game over Maria Gregoire and Danny Lee, 6-0, 6-2, to march into the semis against the pair of Tommy Choi and Sarka, who drew a bye in the first round. Dunlop and Schorr then eased past Choi and Sarka, 6-1, 6-2, to set up a finals showdown against the eventual winners Race and Arriola.

Meanwhile, Irin Chung also needed more time on the court before clinching the girls U12 singles crown. She was pitted against Dana Lee in the finals and eked out a 4-6, 6-4, 10-7 triumph to rule the six-player field.

Lee made it to the title game after eliminating Anna Kwon, 6-4, 6-3, and Hoo Wang, 6-3, 6-4, while Irin secured a finals ticket following her 6-4, 6-0 victory over Savita Sikkel—a 6-4, 6-4 winner versus Lina Tsukagoshi.

In other results, David Kwon topped the round-robin boys U14 singles division after earning a 2-0 record in last weekend's competition.

David first defeated Eubin Park last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1, and then also swept Anthony Gregoire last Sunday, 6-2, 6-3, to seal the deal. Anthony outclassed Park in an earlier game, 6-1, 6-4, to finish second in the division.

The PIC tennis tournament, which is supported by Triple J Truckload Store, will continue this weekend with seven events.

IT&E Road to Tagaman Tri

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Father and daughter Colin and Jinie Thompson run out of the waters of Kilili Beach during the swim leg of last Saturday's IT&E Road to Tagaman Tri.

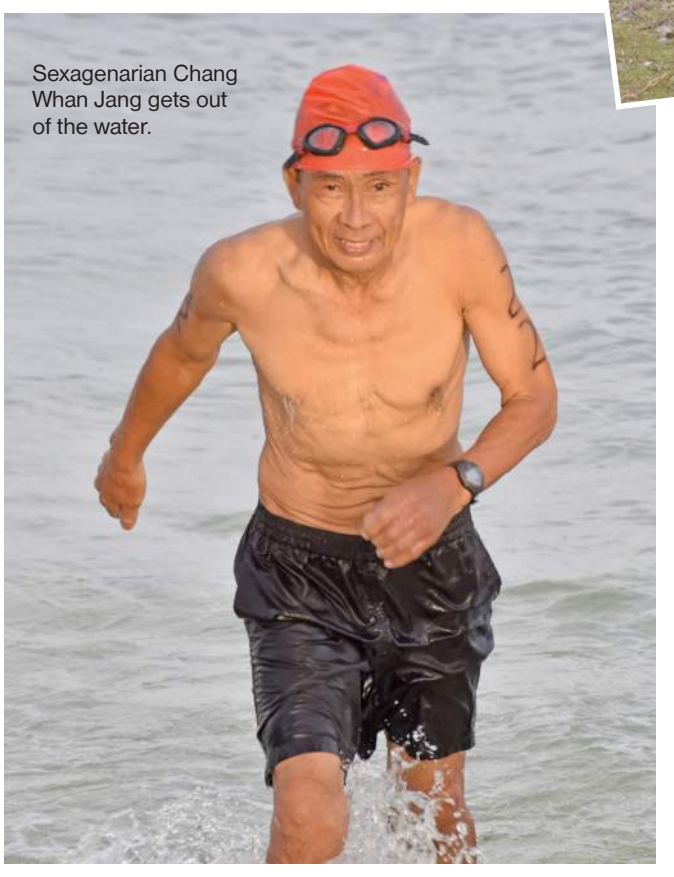
Three triathletes head to the swim-bike leg transition area.

Tyce Mister walks his way out of the water to complete the one-kilometer swim leg.

John Moreno takes his time going around the buoy.

Ayano Braxton removes her goggles as she heads to the swim-bike transition area.

Milan Rabold, left, rushes out of the water.



Sexagenarian Chang Whan Jang gets out of the water.

Jinju Thompson is all smiles after leading the finishers list of the swim leg of last weekend's race.

Trout, Angels close to record $432M, 12-year deal

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Bucks top Lakers; Giannis, LeBron sit out

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NMSA committed to keep Mini Games hosting

The Northern Marianas Sports Association is open to implementing measures that will keep the CNMI's hosting rights for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

"The Northern Marianas Sports Association understands and appreciates the governor's position regarding the CNMI government's support for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. Nonetheless, we are committed to working with the governor to find a way forward which will allow the Games to take place," NMSA said in a press statement.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a letter to NMSA president Michael White last week, announced that the government is withdrawing its support to the CNMI's hosting of the quadrennial event to focus on the continued recovery and rebuilding from Super Typhoon Yutu.

Despite the withdrawal, NMSA remains positive and immediately informed the Pacific Games Council about the recent turn of events. In response, PGC officials will be meeting with the governor next week to find ways to save the Mini Games.

"We are also pleased that

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Sports Association president Michael White, right, reads the names of athletes getting monetary rewards from the group for winning medals in the 2018 Micronesian Games, while NMSA official John Davis, left, receives the checks from John Hirsh during last month's NMSA Annual Banquet at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. NMSA is hoping that the CNMI can still host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.

Torchbearers stun Mantas

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Agape Christian School 1's Kobe Yang drives against two Saipan Southern High School defenders during their game in the CCOPSA caging yesterday at the Torchbearers' court in Gualo Rai.

Agape Christian School 1 came from behind to upset the favored Saipan Southern High School, 88-85, in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Varsity Basketball League yesterday at the former's court in Gualo Rai.

With the Torchbearers clinging to an 86-85 lead with just 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Kobe Yang knocked in a pair of crucial free throws to widen the gape and complete Agape 1's furious comeback bid. Adi Ordona and Clarenz Contreras each managed to launch shots from the 3-point land, but both attempts just hit the back iron, as they failed to send the thrilling game into overtime.

Besides drilling the clutch

See MANTAS on Page 26

Extended finale at PIC tennis tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The last two championship games in the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships went the distance with the pair of Jeff Race and Mayuko Arriola and junior player Irin Chung surviving their respective opponents last Sunday at the PIC Saipan hard court.

Race and Arriola took the mixed open doubles crown after outclassing Robbie Schorr and Marivic Dunlop in a three-set finale. The eventual champions dropped the opening set, 4-6, but got their

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dana Lee eyes a backhand return to Irin Chung during their extended title match in the girls U12 singles event of the 19th Pacific Islands Club Tennis Championships last Sunday at the PIC Saipan hard court.